



## NATIVE PLANTS FOR NEW YORK CITY RAIN GARDENS

Rain gardens are shallow depressions designed to soak up water and support trees, shrubs, and flowers that tolerate both wet and dry conditions. Native plants are highly recommended for rain gardens because they are more pest resistant than nonnatives, require no fertilizer, and provide habitat for birds and butterflies. Once established, the deep roots of native plants increase the water-holding capacity of the soil, hold it together, and prevent erosion. **See our tip sheet “Creating a Rain Garden” for more information.** Here are some North American native plants listed according to the conditions in which they thrive: wet or upland and sunny or shady areas. For more plant lists, visit our website at [bbg.org/gar2/topics/design/2004sp\\_raingardens.html](http://bbg.org/gar2/topics/design/2004sp_raingardens.html) or [bbg.org/gar2/topics/design/2004sp\\_raingardens2.html](http://bbg.org/gar2/topics/design/2004sp_raingardens2.html).

### Native Plants for Wet, Sunny Sites

#### Flowers

Sweet flag (*Acorus calamus*)  
Giant hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)  
Canada anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)  
Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)  
Marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*)  
Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)  
Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)  
Joe-pye weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*)  
Bedstraw: (*Galium boreale*)  
Bottle gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*)  
Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*)  
Giant sunflower (*Helianthus giganteus*)  
Oxeye sunflower (*Helianthus helianthoides*)  
Blue flag (*Iris versicolor*)  
Blazing star (*Liatis spicata*)  
Great blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)  
Prairie phlox (*Phlox pilosa*)

Virginia mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum virginiana*)  
Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*)  
Tall meadow rue (*Thalictrum dasycarpum*)  
Blue vervain (*Verbena hastata*)  
Culver’s root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)  
Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*)

#### Grasses and sedges

Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)  
Blue joint grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*)  
Sedge (many species) (*Carex* spp.)  
Canada wild rye (*Elymus canadensis*)  
Rush (many species) (*Juncus* spp., *Scirpus* spp.)  
Rice cut grass (*Leersia oryzoides*)  
Wool grass (*Scirpus cyperinus*)  
Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)  
Cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*)

**BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN, 1000 Washington Ave, Brooklyn, New York 11225**

Have questions on specifics?

Give GreenBridge, the community horticulture program at BBG, a call! 718-623-7209/7250

## Native Plants for Wet, Shady Sites

### Flowers

Wild sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*)  
Marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*)  
Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)  
Joe Pye-weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*)  
Virginia waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*)  
Spotted touch-me-not (*Impatiens capensis*)  
Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)  
Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*)  
Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)  
Woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)

False dragonhead (*Physostegia virginiana*)  
Tall meadow rue (*Thalictrum dasycarpum*)  
Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)

### Ferns

Ostrich fern (*Matteuccia pennsylvanica*)  
Sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)  
Cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)  
Interrupted fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*)  
Royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*)  
Marsh fern (*Thelypteris palustris*)

## Native Shrubs for Wet Sites

Most of these species do well in sun or shade.

New York aster (*Aster novi-belgii*)  
Black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)  
Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)  
Silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*)  
Grey dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)  
Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)  
Red-osier dogwood 'Isanti' (*Cornus sericea*  
'Isanti')  
Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)

Dwarf bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)  
Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)  
Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*)  
Meadowsweet (needs sun) (*Spiraea alba*)  
Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos alba*)  
Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)  
American cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*)  
American cranberry 'Compacta' (*Viburnum*  
*trilobum* 'Compacta')

## Native Plants for Upland, Sunny Sites

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)  
Yarrow 'Fire King' (*Achillea millefolium* 'Fire  
King')  
Wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)  
Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)  
Coreopsis 'Moonbeam' (*Coreopsis* 'Moonbeam')  
Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)  
Purple coneflower 'White Swan' (*Echinacea*  
'White Swan')

Oxeye sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)  
Blazing star 'Kobold' (*Liatris spicata* 'Kobold')  
Bee balm (*Monarda didyma*)  
Switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*)  
Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)  
Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)  
Showy goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*)

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## Native Plants for Upland, Shady Sites

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*)  
Blue wood aster (*Aster cordifolius*)  
Green-and-gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*)  
Wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)  
Coral bells (*Heuchera americana*)  
Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)  
Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*)  
Interrupted fern (*Osmunda claytonia*)  
Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)

### Where to Get Native Plants

You should never dig up plants that you see in undeveloped areas or on public land—to do so might benefit your garden, but at nature's expense. Sometimes it's hard to find native plants to buy, but nurseries are beginning to sell more native plants as the demand for them increases, so ask your local nursery to stock them. Some nearby nurseries that sell natives include the following:

- Gowanus Nursery: 45 Summit Street, Brooklyn, NY, 718-852-3116, [www.gowanusnursery.com](http://www.gowanusnursery.com)
- Liberty Sunset Garden Center: 204-207 Van Dyke Street, Brooklyn, NY, 718-858-3400, [www.libertysunset.com](http://www.libertysunset.com)
- Fort Pond Native Plants: 26 South Embassy Street, Montauk, NY, 631-668-6452, [www.nativeplants.net](http://www.nativeplants.net)
- H.R. Talmage & Son: 2975 Sound Avenue, Riverhead, NY, 516-727-0124
- Green Belt Native Plant Center, 2252 Richmond Avenue, Staten Island, NY, 718-370-9044
- Toadshade Wildflower Farm, 53 Everittstown Road Frenchtown, NJ, 609-259-8585, [www.toadshade.com](http://www.toadshade.com)
- Bill Kolvek Perennials, Woodcliff Lake, NJ, 845-735-2904, [www.bkperennials.com](http://www.bkperennials.com)
- Wild Earth Native Plant Nursery, Freehold, NJ, 732-308-9777

A large selection of native plants are also available through mail order. For more information, visit Brooklyn Botanic Garden's **Gardener's Resource Center**, open April through October: Tuesday–Friday, 10:30–12:30 p.m. and 1:30–4:30 p.m.; November through March: Tuesday–Friday, 10:30–12:30 p.m. and 1:30–4:30 p.m.

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