

New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual

Chapter 5: Green Infrastructure Practices

Section 5.3 Green Infrastructure Techniques

Table 5.11 Suggested Rain Garden Plant List	
Shrubs	Herbaceous Plants
Witch Hazel <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Cinnamon Fern <i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>
Winterberry <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Cutleaf Coneflower <i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>
Arrowwood <i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Woolgrass <i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>
Brook-side Alder <i>Alnus serrulata</i>	New England Aster <i>Aster novae-angliae</i>
Red-Osier Dogwood <i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Fox Sedge <i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>
Sweet Pepperbush <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Spotted Joe-Pye Weed <i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>
	Switch Grass <i>Panicum virgatum</i>
	Great Blue Lobelia <i>Lobelia siphatica</i>
	Wild Bergamot <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>
	Red Milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnate</i>
Adapted from NYSDM Bioretention Specifications, Bannerman, Brooklyn Botanic Garden.	

Maintenance

Rain gardens are intended to be relatively low maintenance. However, these practices may be subject to sedimentation and invasive plant species which could create maintenance problems. If the recharge ability is lost by accumulation of fine sediment, mosquito breeding may occur. Adequate arrangements for long-term maintenance of these systems and updated inventories of their location are essential for the long-term performance of these practices. Rain gardens should be treated as a component of the landscaping, with routine maintenance specified through a legally binding maintenance agreement. Routine maintenance may include the occasional replacement of plants, mulching, weeding and thinning to maintain the desired appearance. Weeding and watering are essential the first year, and can be minimized with the use of a weed-