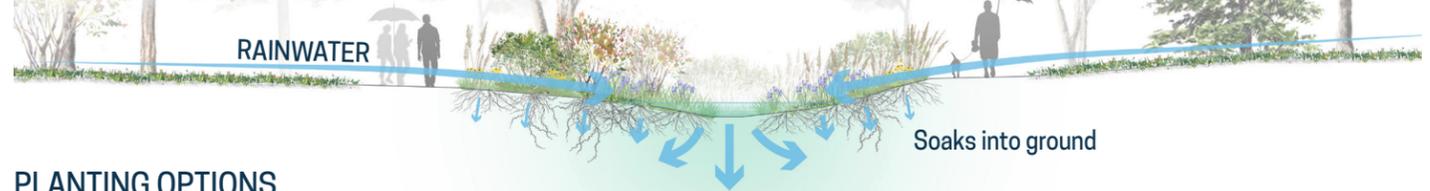


## RAIN GARDEN

A rain garden is bowl-shaped to capture and absorb rainfall and snowmelt. These gardens help improve downstream water quality and recharges groundwater. Rain garden plants have to be able to thrive in times of flood and drought, so not every plant is suited for this environment. Lucky for us, some native plants are. This guide provides a suggested rain garden planting plan.

For more information and instructions for building a rain garden, download the Southern Lake Michigan Rain Garden Manual at [http://www.iiseagrant.org/catalog/l21/LMrain\\_garden.php](http://www.iiseagrant.org/catalog/l21/LMrain_garden.php)



## PLANTING OPTIONS



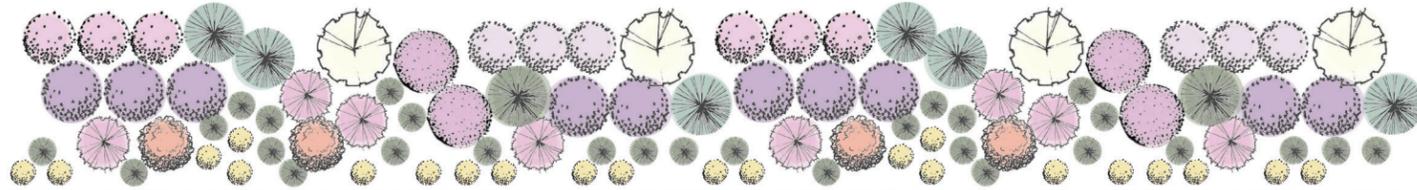
PLANTING ALONG HOUSE



PLANTING ALONG SIDEWALK

Whether you want a large garden or prefer to start out small, customize your rain garden by choosing a variety of plants or a few select favorites. Get creative when planting by phasing in your garden towards your home, planting closer to the sidewalk, or lining the fence in your backyard - just be sure to plant at least 10 ft. from your house (or 20 ft. if there is a basement or heavy clay soil) to prevent water seeping into the foundation. While suggested plant lists and design templates can help, you can personalize your garden however you like, but be sure to check local municipal or HOA ordinances.

If you have more space, you can take the basic planting plan and repeat it, as such.



If you have less space, here are groupings that are suitable for a small bed.



GOLDEN ALEXANDERS PRAIRIE BLAZING STAR PURPLE JOE PYE WEED



GREAT BLUE LOBELIA NEW ENGLAND ASTER INDIAN GRASS

## WHERE TO FIND PLANTS AND MORE INFORMATION

Grand Prairie Friends provided the plant list. See their website for availability. The Illinois Native Plant Society webpage lists other sources of plants. For more information about plants, see the University of Illinois Extension Horticulture website.

## PUT YOUR NATIVE PLANT GARDEN ON THE MAP

You can be part of a network of native plantings by registering your Illinois native plant garden or rain garden. This helps build community and encourage native plant use.

Add your native plant garden to the map: <http://go.illinois.edu/GardenMap>

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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# RAIN GARDEN

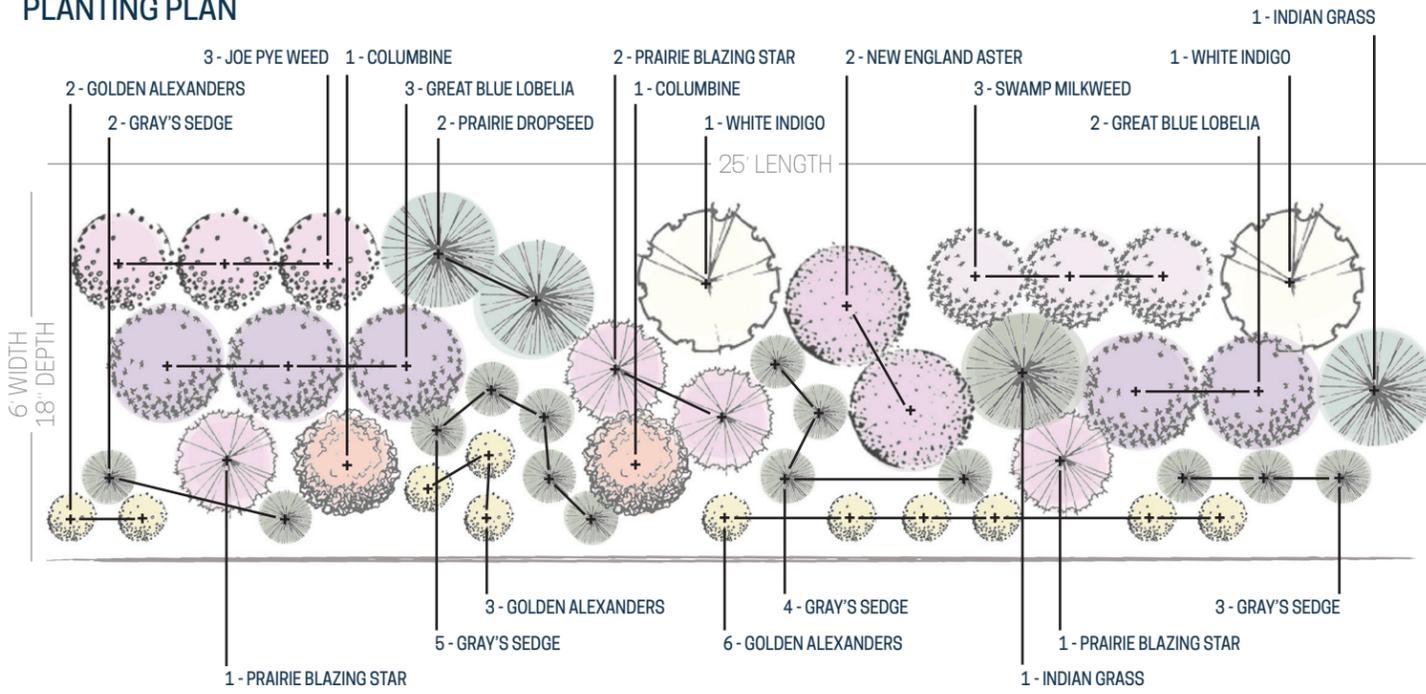
## A NATIVE PLANTING GUIDE FOR RAIN GARDEN BEDS



# RAIN GARDEN

## A NATIVE PLANTING GUIDE FOR RAIN GARDEN BEDS

### PLANTING PLAN



### FOUR SEASON INTEREST

- SPRING:** COLUMBINE (*Aquilegia canadensis*), WHITE WILD INDIGO (*Baptisia alba*), GOLDEN ALEXANDERS (*Zizia aurea*).
- SUMMER:** GREAT BLUE LOBELIA (*Lobelia siphilitica*), PURPLE JOE PYE WEED (*Eutrochium purpureus*), SWAMP MILKWEED (*Asclepias incarnata*), GOLDEN ALEXANDERS (*Zizia aurea*), WHITE INDIGO (*Baptisia alba*), PRAIRIE BLAZING STAR (*Liatris pycnostachya*), INDIAN GRASS (*Sorghastrum nutans*).
- FALL:** NEW ENGLAND ASTER (*Aster novae-angliae*), GREAT BLUE LOBELIA (*Lobelia siphilitica*), PURPLE JOE PYE WEED (*Eutrochium purpureus*), INDIAN GRASS (*Sorghastrum nutans*).
- WINTER:** PRAIRIE DROPSEED (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), INDIAN GRASS (*Sorghastrum nutans*), WHITE INDIGO (*Baptisia alba*).

SPRING      SUMMER      FALL      WINTER

SUNLIGHT    HEIGHT    MOISTURE    SOIL TYPE    COMMON ECOSYSTEM    ATTRACTIONS    DROUGHT TOLERANCE    SPACING

PLANT NAME	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SUNLIGHT	HEIGHT	MOISTURE	SOIL TYPE	COMMON ECOSYSTEM	ATTRACTIONS	DROUGHT TOLERANCE	SPACING
<b>COLUMBINE</b> <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>						1'-3'		LOAM, SANDY, ROCKY	WOODLAND			10-17"
<b>GOLDEN ALEXANDERS</b> <i>Zizia aurea</i>						1'-2½'		LOAM	WET PRAIRIE			12-24"
<b>WHITE WILD INDIGO</b> <i>Baptisia alba</i>						3'-6'		TOLERANT	BLACK SOIL PRAIRIE			30-42"
<b>SWAMP MILKWEED</b> <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>						3'-5'		LOAM, CLAY, SILT	FLOODPLAIN			18-36"
<b>PURPLE JOE PYE WEED</b> <i>Eutrochium purpureus</i>						3'-7'		SILT/SANDY LOAM	WET PRAIRIE			36-48"
<b>PRAIRIE BLAZING STAR</b> <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>						2'-4'		LOAM, CLAY	BLACK SOIL PRAIRIE			12-18"
<b>GREAT BLUE LOBELIA</b> <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>						1'-4'		LOAM	WET PRAIRIE			12-18"
<b>NEW ENGLAND ASTER</b> <i>Aster novae-angliae</i>						2'-4'		LOAM/CLAY	BLACK SOIL PRAIRIE			24-36"
<b>GRAY'S SEDGE</b> <i>Carex grayi</i>						½'-1½'		SANDY/SILT	MOIST WOODLAND			6-10"
<b>PRAIRIE DROPSEED</b> <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>						1'-2'		LOAM, ROCKY	HILL PRAIRIE			24-36"
<b>INDIAN GRASS</b> <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>						3'-7'		TOLERANT	SAVANNAH			24-36"

### SOURCES

ILLINOIS WILDFLOWERS - <http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/>  
 PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY - <https://www.prairiemoon.com/>  
 GARDENER EXPERIENCE

### LEGEND

- FULL SUN
- PART SUN
- WET SOIL
- MOIST SOIL
- MESIC SOIL
- ATTRACTS BEES
- ATTRACTS HUMMINGBIRDS
- ATTRACTS BIRDS
- ATTRACTS A VARIETY OF BUTTERFLIES
- ATTRACTS MONARCH BUTTERFLIES
- ATTRACTS CATERPILLARS
- DROUGHT TOLERANT
- SEMI-DROUGHT TOLERANT
- NOT DROUGHT TOLERANT