One strategy for people new to rain garden native plants is to start out with a limited number of species. More species can always be added later as you learn more about what works best in your space. 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.

Below are two options for rain garden native plant combinations that feature only three species:

- **Prairie Blazing Star**
- **Prairie Dropseed**
- **Swamp Milkweed**

Planting zones can be broken down into three categories: bank, slope, and basin, as shown in this cross section of a typical rain garden.

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Produced by C. Elisa Brown, University of Illinois Extension.

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Edited and reviewed by Chris Ernst, Travis Cleveland, University of Illinois Extension, Kara Salazar, Purdue University, Irene Miles and Joel Davenport, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant.
FULL SUN RAIN GARDEN
A NATIVE PLANTING GUIDE FOR SUNNY RAIN GARDEN BEDS

PLANTING PLAN FOR A 6’ x 25’ BED

BANK: Prairie Dropseed (15), Indian Grass (3), White Wild Indigo (2), New England Aster (2), Golden Alexanders (3)
SLOPE: Columbine (3), Purple Joe Pye Weed (3), Prairie Blazing Star (3)
BASIN: Emory’s Sedge (8), Great Blue Lobelia (7), Swamp Milkweed (3)

In addition, see the Red Oak Rain Garden Brochure for information related to Groundcover, Seasonal, and Structural categories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON NAME</th>
<th>TOTAL QUANTITY IN DESIGN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COLUMBINE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHITE WILD INDIGO</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWAMP MILKWEED</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PURPLE JOE PYE WEED</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRAIRIE BLAZING STAR</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREAT BLUE LOBELIA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHITE INDIGO</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDIAN GRASS</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOLDEN ALEXANDERS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SORGHASTRUM NUTANS</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some of these species freely self-seed if seed heads are left standing post-bloom. If this is not desired, transplant them back to preferred locations.

Sources
ILLINOIS WILDFLOWERS - illinoiswildflowers.info

Legend
- ATTRACTS BEE
- ATTRACTS BUTTERFLIES
- ATTRACTS MONARCH BUTTERFLIES
- ATTRACTS A VARIETY OF BUTTERFLIES
- TOLERATES DROUGHT
- TOLERATES DRIED OUT, BUT MAY YELLOW AND DROOP
- WILL NOT SURVIVE EXTENDED DROUGHT

SOURCES