



RETHINK RUNOFF

WHAT YOU CAN DO AROUND YOUR HOUSE

GUIDE TO RAIN GARDEN PLANTS

Rain gardens are a great way to reduce stormwater runoff around your home, but you can also make smaller changes around your garden that will help reduce stormwater, just by including certain plants in your garden.

Below is a list of rain garden plants that you can use in your garden to help reduce stormwater runoff. All of these plants are native to Vermont. In addition, we've noted their mature height, sun exposure and when they bloom.

Salt Intolerant Plants

These plants are not salt-tolerant, so you want to avoid placing them in areas away from where you salt in the winter.



Bee Balm

Monarda didyma

Perennial

Height: 3'

Exposure: Full Sun/
Partial Shade

Bloom: Summer

Red, pink, salmon colored
flowers, aggressive



Big Bluestem

Andropogon gerardii

Grass

Height: 3-7'

Exposure: Full Sun

Bloom: Fall

Purple, good for erosion
prevention due to large root
system



Bloodroot

Sanguinaria canadensis

Perennial

Height: 6-10'

Exposure: Full/Partial Shade

Bloom: Spring

White flower, toxic



Cardinal Flower

Verbena hastata

Perennial

Height: 2-4'

Exposure: Full Sun/
Partial Shade

Bloom: Summer/Fall

Purple spires



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SALT INTOLERANT PLANTS (CONTINUED)



Blue-Eyed Grass

Sisyrinchium angustifolium
Perennial

Height: 8-10"

Exposure: Full Sun

Bloom: Summer

Small blue or purple flowers, self-seeds



Boneset

Eupatorium perfoliatum
Perennial

Height: 4-6'

Exposure: Full Sun/
Partial Shade

Bloom: Summer

Flat-topped clusters of small, fluffy, white flowers



Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea spp.
Perennial

Height: 1-2'

Exposure: Full Sun/
Partial Shade

Bloom: Summer

Varieties include purple and white flowers



Culver's Root

Veronicastrum virginicum
Perennial

Height: 4-5'

Exposure: Full Sun/
Partial Shade

Bloom: Summer

Lavender or white spiked flowers, attracts bees and butterflies.



Elderberry

Sambucus canadensis
Shrub

Height: 5-12'

Exposure: Full/Partial Sun

Bloom: Summer

White flowers, prefers moist soils, can tolerate wet and clay soils



Foxglove

Penstemon digitalis
Perennial

Height: 3-5'

Exposure: Full Sun

Bloom: Spring/Summer

Purple flowers, deer resistant, clay/dry soil tolerant



Joe-Pye Weed

Eutrochium maculatum
Perennial

Height: 4-6'

Exposure: Full Sun

Bloom: Summer/Fall

Pink flowers, deer resistant, tolerates clay soils



Milkweed

Asclepias tuberosa
Perennial

Height: 1-2.5'

Exposure: Full Sun

Bloom: Summer

Orange flower



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SALT INTOLERANT PLANTS (CONTINUED)



Pussy Willow

Salix discolor

Shrubs

Height: 6-15'

Exposure: Full Shade

Bloom: Winter/Spring

White flowers, silky grey catkins, fast growth



Senecio

Packera aurea

Perennial

Height: 6-30"

Exposure: Full/Partial Sun

Bloom: Spring

Yellow, daisy-like flowers



Swamp Milkweed

Asclepias incarnata

Perennial

Height: 4-5'

Exposure: Full Sun

Bloom: Spring/Summer/Fall

Showy, small, rose-purple flowers, attracts Monarch butterfly.



Red Osier Dogwood

Cornus sericea

Shrub

Height: 6-12'

Exposure: Full Sun

Bloom: Spring/Summer

White flowers, red stems in winter, provides food and cover



Turtlehead

Chelone glabra

Perennial

Height: 2-3'

Exposure: Full/Partial Sun

Bloom: Summer/Fall

White flowers, attracts butterflies



Wild Geranium

Geranium maculatum

Perennial

Height: 1-2'

Exposure: Full/Partial Sun

Bloom: Spring/Summer

Pink flowers, deer resistant



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SALT TOLERANT PLANTS

These plants are salt-tolerant, so you can plant them near walkways, driveways or other places to get salted during the winter.



Black Chokeberry

Aronia melanocarpa
Shrub

Height: 3-5'

Exposure: Full Sun

Bloom: Spring

White to pink flowers, edible berries for jam or wine



Black Eyed Susan

Rudbeckia hirta
Perennial

Height: 1'

Exposure: Full Sun/
Partial Shade

Bloom: Summer/Fall

Orange-yellow flowers, short lived, deer resistant



Blue Flag Iris

Iris versicolor
Perennial

Height: 2-3'

Exposure: Full Sun/
Partial Shade

Bloom: Spring/Summer

Blue-violet flowers



Cardinal Flower

Lobelia cardinalis
Perennial

Height: 2-4'

Exposure: Full Sun/
Partial Shade

Bloom: Summer

Vibrant Red spiky flowers, tricky, short lived



Columbine

Aquilegia canadensis
Perennial

Height: 1-2'

Exposure: Full Sun/
Partial Shade

Bloom: Spring/Fall

Showy red and yellow, beautiful foliage



Daylily

Hemerocallis ssp.
Perennial

Height: 2.5-3.5'

Exposure: Full Sun/
Partial Shade

Bloom: Summer

Purple, yellow, orange flowers



False Indigo

Baptisia australis
Perennial

Height: 3-4'

Exposure: Full/Partial Sun

Bloom: Spring/Summer

Blue, nitrogen fixer,

deer resistant



New England Aster

Aster novae-angliae
Perennial

Height: 2-6'

Exposure: Full Sun/
Partial Shade

Bloom: Summer/Fall

Pink-purple flowers



SALT TOLERANT PLANTS (CONTINUED)



Oxeye Sunflower

Heliopsis helianthoides

Perennial

Height: 2-3'

Exposure: Full Sun/
Partial Shade

Bloom: Spring/Fall

Yellow flowers, attracts
ground bees, butterflies
and birds



Soft Rush

Juncus effusus

Grass

Height: 3'

Exposure: Full/Partial Sun

Bloom: Spring/Summer/Fall

small, non-showy yellowish
cymes in summer



Tall Switchgrass

Panicum virgatum

Grass

Height: 3-6'

Exposure: Full/Partial Sun

Bloom: Spring/Summer/Fall

Quick growing, spring
wild life cover



St. Johns Wort

Hypericum kalmianum

Perennial

Height: 2-3'

Exposure: Full/Partial Sun

Bloom: Summer

Yellow star-shaped flowers,
deer resistant



Windflower

Anemone canadensis

Perennial

Height: 1-2'

Exposure: Partial Shade

Bloom: Spring

Pure white flowers