PLANTS

for Northwest Ohio rain gardens

Common Name	Sun range	Moisture range	Color	Ht. (ft)	Bloom period
Flowers					
New England Aster *Aster novae-angliae*	☀ ⛅	wet-moist	violet	1-4	Aug-Oct
Cardinal Flower *Lobelia cardinalis*	☀ ⛅	wet-moist	red	2-4	July-Sept
Great Blue Lobelia *Lobelia silphilitica*	☀ ⛅	wet-moist	blue	2-4	Aug-Sept
Swamp Milkweed *Asclepias incarnata*	☀ ⛅	wet-moist	pink	4-5	July-Aug
Butterfly Milkweed *Asclepias tuberosa*	☀ ⛅	moist-dry	orange	1-3	June-Aug
Marsh Blazing Star *Liatris spicata*	☀ ⛅	wet-moist	purple	3-6	July-Sept
Ohio Spiderwort *Tradescantia ohiensis*	☀ ⛅	moist-dry	blue	2-4	May-July
Purple Coneflower *Echinacea purpurea*	☀ ⛅	moist-dry	purple	2-4	June-Aug
Wild Geranium *Geranium maculatum*	☀ 🌑	moist	pink	1-2	April-May
Wild Columbine *Aquilegia canadensis*	⛅ 🌑	moist	orange-red	1-2	June-July
Culver's Root *Veronicastrum virginicum*	⛅ 🌑	moist-average	white	3-6	June-Aug
Daylilies (not orange) *Hemerocallis sp.*	☀ ⛅	moist-dry	various	1-3	May-Aug
Turtlehead *Chelone glabra*	⛅	average-wet	cream	3-4	July-Sept
Grasses & Sedges					
Fox Sedge *Carex vulpinoidea*	☀ ⛅	saturated-wet	green-brown	2-3	May-July
Soft Rush *Juncus effusus*	☀	saturated-wet	green	2-4	June-Aug
Little Bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium*	☀ ⛅	average-dry	blue-green	2-4	Aug
Prairie Dropseed *Sporobolus heterolepis*	☀ ⛅	average-dry	green	1.5-2	Aug-Oct
Shrubs					
Red Twigged Dogwood *Cornus sericea*	☀ 🌑	wet-dry	white-red	6-12	May-June
Blueberries *Vaccinium sp.*	☀ ⛅	moist	red fall foliage	4-6	June-Aug
Black Chokeberry *Aronia melanocarpa*	☀ ⛅	moist-dry	white-red	3-6	May

☀ = full sun ⛅ = partial sun 🌑 = full shade

for more information...

Visit our demonstration rain gardens!
check our website for current locations, as well as other resources:
www.raingardeninitiative.org

Contacts:

information@raingardeninitiative.org

City of Toledo, Division of Environmental Services - 419.936.3015

Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District - 419.893.1966

Gardening advice can be obtained by contacting:

The OSU Extension Horticulture Hotline
419.578.6783, Mon/Wed/Fri, 10am-1pm

Promoting natural stormwater management & urban beautification

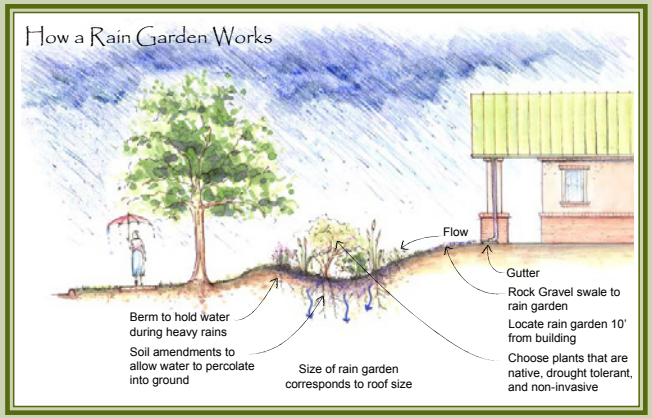
www.raingardeninitiative.org

WHAT *is a rain garden?*

A rain garden is a garden built in a natural or man-made depression that is designed to temporarily fill with rain water from downspouts, driveways, or streets, keeping this water on site and out of our storm sewer systems. Rain gardens allow the water to soak back into the ground and filter pollutants with the help of deep-rooted native plants. Designed in all shapes and sizes, rain gardens may include formally arranged plants, fields of wildflowers, shrubs, stone culverts and paths, and other beautiful landscape features.

Benefits of Rain Gardens

- Help keep water clean by filtering storm water runoff before it enters local waterways.
- Recharge the groundwater supply.
- Provide beautiful landscaping for yards and neighborhoods.
- Provide valuable habitat for birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects.



WHAT *are native plants?*

We define a native or indigenous plant as a species that has been recorded at the time of early settlement in this area, about 300 years ago. Native plants possess plenty of nectar and wildlife habitat characteristics that are adapted to the local climate. Native plants just make sense!

WHY *native plants?*

Native grasses, flowers, and shrubs have adapted to the local climate of the region. They are, by evolution, tolerant of extreme heat, bitter cold, and fierce winds of the Midwest. After they are established, they need no extra protection from the drought in summer or the harsh elements in winter, thereby reducing gardening labor. An area of lawn that has been converted to a native plant garden does not require routine fertilizers, watering, or mowing.

WHAT *we* DO

Rain Garden Initiative

Toledo - Lucas County

Assist citizens interested in constructing rain gardens

Demonstration projects

Technical assistance and training

Public information and involvement