Rain Garden Planting Plans

Selected Plants and Plans for RainWise Rain Gardens
Introduction

A successful rain garden design needs:

- Plants that match the soil, sun and shade conditions in the rain garden.
- A majority of evergreen plants to provide year-round beauty, absorb stormwater, prevent erosion and block weeds.
- A balance of deciduous plants for seasonal color.
- A diversity of heights to provide habitat and visual interest.
- Enough space between plants so that they need little to no pruning as they mature.

How to use this guide:

- Identify whether your rain garden will be in sun, part shade or shade and then choose the matching planting plan.
- Select approximately seven plants to repeat throughout your garden. Repetition creates harmony and a more natural appearance.
- Adjust the size of the sample rain garden plan to match your intended size. Increase or decrease plants accordingly. The samples are approximately 6’ x 10’.
- Be sure to cross reference this guide with the RainWise Design Specifications for details on outflows, depths and other requirements.

Planting Zones

**Critical when choosing and placing plants**

Rain gardens are built to soak up stormwater. During the rainy season, the bottom will stay wet and must be filled with plants that thrive in these conditions. In contrast, the upper slopes and top of the rain garden drain faster, leaving drier soil especially in the summer. These areas require different plants. Use the plant list and plans to match the appropriate plants for the following zones:

- **ZONE 1** Areas of periodic, or frequent, standing or flowing water in the bottom of the garden. Zone 1 plants should also tolerate the seasonally dry summers in Western Washington without extra watering beyond the first two to three year establishment period.

- **ZONE 2** Periodically moist or saturated soils during larger storms. Plants are typically planted on the side slopes in this zone and can help protect against erosion.

- **ZONE 3** Drier soils found at the top of the rain garden. This zone can blend with the existing landscape.

Plant List Legend

- **D** Deciduous: plants that drop their leaves usually in autumn
- **E** Evergreen: plants that keep their leaves throughout the year
- **S** Semi-evergreen: plants that keep most of their leaves in mild winters
- **N** Native: plants that are native to Western Washington
- **GPP** Great Plant Picks (www.greatplantpicks.org) plant lists and photos of plants recommended for the maritime Pacific Northwest.
- **Sun**: at least six hours of sun per day
- **Part shade**: about four to six hours of sun per day; may receive morning sun or may be filtered by trees
- **Shade**: receives even less sun which may be blocked by trees or buildings
This 6’ x 10’ planting plan represents just one of many approaches for a rain garden. Seven different plant species have been repeated through the plan to give a more natural appearance. In addition, the list below shows substitutes that will fit in the same space while thriving in the same sunlight conditions. Refer to the Plant List starting on page 13 for more rain-garden-appropriate plants.

Choose one plant species from each of the categories below to repeat as the plan shows

E = Evergreen

1. California Gray Rush *Juncus patens* cultivar (E)
   - Alternatives: Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* cultivar (E)
     - Slough Sedge *Carex obnupta* (E)

2. Pacific Coast Iris *Iris douglasiana* (E)
   - Alternatives: Lily Turf *Liriope muscari* (E)
     - Blue Fescue *Festuca ‘Beyond Blue’* (E)

3. Little Heath Lily of the Valley *Pieris japonica ‘Little Heath’* (E)
   - Alternatives: Blue Oat Grass *Helictotrichon sempervirens* (E)
     - Western Sword Fern *Polystichum munitum* (E)

4. Lily Turf *Liriope muscari & cultivars* (E)
   - Alternatives: Blue Pacific Shore Juniper *Juniperus conferta ‘Blue Pacific’* (E)
     - Wall Germander *Teucrium chamaedrys* (E)

5. Magic Carpet Spirea *Spiraea ‘Magic Carpet’*
   - Alternatives: Bluebeard *Caryopteris clandonensis*
     - Coneflower *Echinacea purpurea* cultivar

6. Orange New Zealand Sedge *Carex testacea* (E)
   - Alternatives: Tickseed *Coreopsis verticillata ‘Zagreb’*
     - Variegated Sedge *Carex ‘Ice Dance’* (E)

7. Stonecrop *Sedum ‘Autumn joy’ or ‘Matrona’*
   - Alternatives: Siberian Iris *Iris sibirica* cultivars (E)
     - Rozanne Geranium *Geranium ‘Rozanne’*

Use this scaled drawing (0.5” = 1’) to understand how far apart to space plants and allow for their mature size.
Sun rain garden planting plan

These photos show the plants in their most colorful stages. Please note that trees and plants change throughout the year and have different bloom times, may have fall foliage and may lose leaves altogether in the wintertime. Search online to find more images that show them through the seasons, and also provide a sense of their leaves close up or their overall shape from a distance.

ZONE 1

1. California Gray Rush *Juncus patens* cultivar
2. Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* cultivar (E)
3. Slough Sedge *Carex obruca* (E)

ZONE 2

4. Pacific Coast Iris *Iris douglasiana* (E)
5. Lily Turf *Liriope muscari* (E)
6. Blue Fescue *Festuca ‘Beyond Blue’* (E)

ZONE 3

7. Little Heath Lily of the Valley *Pieris japonica ‘Little Heath’* (E)
8. Blue Oat Grass *Helictotrichon sempervirens* (E)
9. Western Sword Fern *Polystichum munitum* (E)

Photos courtesy of plant growers, horticultural organizations and Great Plant Picks.
ZONE 2 | ZONE 3
---|---
4 | Lily Turf *Liriope muscari* & cultivars (E) | Blue Pacific Shore Juniper *Juniperus conferta* ‘Blue Pacific’ (E) | Wall Germander *Teucrium chamaedrys* (E)
5 | Magic Carpet Spirea *Spiraea* ‘Magic Carpet’ | Bluebeard *Caryopteris clandonensis* | Coneflower *Echinacea purpurea* cultivar
6 | Orange New Zealand Sedge *Carex testacea* (E) | Tickseed *Coreopsis verticillata* ‘Zagreb’ | Variegated Sedge *Carex* ‘Ice Dance’ (E)
7 | Stonecrop *Sedum* ‘Autumn joy’ or ‘Matrona’ | Siberian Iris *Iris sibirica* cultivars (E) | Rozanne Geranium *Geranium* ‘Rozanne’

Photos courtesy of plant growers, horticultural organizations and Great Plant Picks.
This 6’ x 10’ planting plan represents just one of many approaches for a rain garden. Seven different plant species have been repeated through the plan to give a more natural appearance. In addition, the list below shows substitutes that will fit in the same space while thriving in the same sunlight conditions. Refer to the Plant List starting on page 13 for more rain-garden-appropriate plants.

**Choose one plant species from each of the categories below to repeat as the plan shows**

**E=Evergreen**

1. **Slough Sedge** *Carex obnupta* (E)
   **Alternatives:**
   - **Soft Rush** *Juncus effusus* cultivar (E)
   - **California Gray Rush** *Juncus patens* cultivar (E)

2. **Blondy Wintercreeper** *Euonymus fortunei* ‘Interbolwi’ (E)
   **Alternatives:**
   - **Variegated Sedge** *Carex* ‘Ice Dance’ (E)
   - **Compact Oregon Grape** *Mahonia nervosa* (E)

3. **Hardy Geranium** *Geranium macrorrhizum* cultivar (E)
   **Alternatives:**
   - **Barrenwort** *Epimedium perralchicum* (E)
   - **Perennial Geranium** *Geranium x cantabrigiense* ‘Cambridge’ (E)

4. **Himalayan Sweet Box** *Sarcococca hookeriana humilis* (E)
   **Alternatives:**
   - **Blue Pacific Shore Juniper** *Juniperus conferta* ‘Blue Pacific’ (E)
   - **Variegated Sedge** *Carex* ‘Ice Dance’ (E)

5. **Oak-Leaf Hydrangea** *Hydrangea quercifolia* ‘Pee Wee’
   **Alternatives:**
   - **Midwinter Fire Dogwood** *Cornus sanguinea* ‘Midwinter Fire’
   - **Dwarf Hardy Fuchsia** *Fuchsia magellanica* ‘Aurea’

6. **Barrenwort** *Epimedium rubrum* (E)
   **Alternatives:**
   - **Blondy Wintercreeper** *Euonymus fortunei* ‘Interbolwi’ (E)
   - **Creeping Oregon Grape** *Mahonia repens* (E)

7. **Sourwood** *Oxydendron arboreum* 
   **Alternatives:**
   - **Elizabeth Magnolia** *Magnolia* ‘Elizabeth’
   - **Japanese Stewartia** *Stewartia pseudocamellia*
Part Shade
rain garden planting plan

These photos show the plants in their most colorful stages. Please note that trees and plants change throughout the year and have different bloom times, may have fall foliage and may lose leaves altogether in the wintertime. Search online to find more images that show them through the seasons, and also provide a sense of their leaves close up or their overall shape from a distance.

**ZONE 1**

1. Slough Sedge  *Carex obnupta* (E)
2. Soft Rush  *Juncus effusus* cultivar (E)
3. California Gray Rush  *Juncus patens* cultivar (E)

**ZONE 2**

2. Blondy Winter creeper  *Euonymus fortunei* ‘Interbolwi’ (E)
3. Variegated Sedge  *Carex* ‘Ice Dance’ (E)

**ZONE 2 / ZONE 3**

3. Compact Oregon Grape  *Mahonia nervosa* (E)
3. Hardy Geranium  *Geranium macrorrhizum* cultivar (E)
3. Barrenwort  *Epimedium perralchicum* (E)
3. Perennial Geranium  *Geranium x cantabrigiense* ‘Cambridge’ (E)
Photos courtesy of plant growers, horticultural organizations and Great Plant Picks.
This 6’ x 10’ planting plan represents just one of many approaches for a rain garden. Seven different plant species have been repeated through the plan to give a more natural appearance. In addition, the list below shows substitutes that will fit in the same space while thriving in the same sunlight conditions. Refer to the Plant List starting on page 13 for more rain-garden-appropriate plants.

Choose one plant species from each of the categories below to repeat as the plan shows

E = Evergreen

1. Small-Fruited Bulrush  *Scirpus microcarpus* (E)
   **Alternatives:**
   - Slough Sedge  *Carex obnupta* (E)
   - Sweet Flag  *Acorus gramineus ‘Ogon’* (E)

2. Compact Oregon Grape  *Mahonia nervosa* (E)
   **Alternatives:**
   - Creeping Oregon Grape  *Mahonia repens* (E)
   - Youth on Age  *Tolmiea menziesii*

3. Salal  *Gaultheria shallon* (E)
   **Alternatives:**
   - Evergreen Huckleberry  *Vaccinium ovatum*
   - Oregon Grape  *Mahonia aquifolium* (E)

4. Western Sword Fern  *Polystichum munitum* (E)
   **Alternatives:**
   - Deer Fern  *Blechnum spicant* (E)
   - Asian Saber Fern  *Polystichum neolobatum* (E)

5. Evergreen Huckleberry  *Vaccinium ovatum* (E)
   **Alternatives:**
   - Sweet Box  *Sarcococca confusa* (E)
   - Salal  *Gaultheria shallon* (E)

6. Inside-Out Flower  *Vancouveria hexandra* (E)
   **Alternatives:**
   - Youth on Age  *Tolmiea menziesii*
   - Fringecup  *Tellima grandiflora*

7. Vine Maple  *Acer circinatum*
   **Alternatives:**
   - Hogan Western Redcedar  *Thuja plicata ‘Hogan’* (E)
   - Shore Pine  *Pinus contorta contorta* (E)
These photos show the plants in their most colorful stages. Please note that trees and plants change throughout the year and have different bloom times, may have fall foliage and may lose leaves altogether in the wintertime. Search online to find more images that show them through the seasons, and also provide a sense of their leaves close up or their overall shape from a distance.
**ZONE 3**

Western Sword Fern *Polystichum munitum* (E)

Deer Fern *Blechnum spicant* (E)

Asian Saber Fern *Polystichum neolobatum* (E)

**ZONE 2**

Evergreen Huckleberry *Vaccinium ovatum* (E)

Sweet Box *Sarcococca confusa* (E)

Salal *Gaultheria shallon* (E)

**ZONE 3**

Inside-Out Flower *Vancouveria hexandra* (E-semi)

Youth on Age *Tolmeia menziesii*

Fringecup *Tellima grandiflora*

**ZONE 3**

Vine Maple *Acer circinatum*

Hogan Western Redcedar *Thuja plicata 'Hogan'* (E)

Shore Pine *Pinus contorta contorta* (E)
## Plant List

See Plant List Legend on page 2 for terms and abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>D or E</th>
<th>Native</th>
<th>Exposure</th>
<th>Mature Size</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plants less than 2’</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abelia x grandiflora dwarf cultivars</td>
<td>Prostrate Abelia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>(Semi)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18” – 24” 4’</td>
<td>GPP. Cut to the ground in late winter to encourage filling in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acorus gramininus and cultivars</td>
<td>Sweet Flag</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6” – 24” 12”</td>
<td>Native ground cover.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi ‘Vancouver Jade’</td>
<td>Vancouver Jade Kinnikinnik</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6” 5’</td>
<td>Native ground cover.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blechnum Spicant</td>
<td>Deer Pern</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>24” 24”</td>
<td>GPP. Tolerant of occasional flooding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camassia quamash</td>
<td>Common Camas</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
<td>18” – 24” 12”</td>
<td>Native bulb with beautiful blue flower spike in spring. May self-seed. Drought-tolerant &amp; dies down in summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex ‘Ice Dance’</td>
<td>Variegated Sedge</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18” 3’</td>
<td>Cut to the ground in late winter to encourage filling in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carex testacea</td>
<td>Orange New Zealand Sedge</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12” – 18” 18”</td>
<td>May self-seed. Fine-textured clumping sedge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coreopsis verticillata ‘Zagreb’</td>
<td>Tickseed</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18” 18”</td>
<td>Yellow flowers in summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deschampsia flexuosa ‘Aurea’</td>
<td>Golden Crinkled Hair Grass</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20” 12”</td>
<td>Leave foliage and seed heads for winter interest and cut back in March before new growth emerges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epimedium rubrum or perralchicum</td>
<td>Barrenwort</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18” 18”</td>
<td>GPP. Cut back in March before new growth and flowers emerge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euonymus fortunei ‘Emerald &amp; Gold’</td>
<td>Wintercreep euonymous</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18” 24”</td>
<td>Yellow/green variegated leaves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euonymus fortunei ‘Interbolwi’</td>
<td>Blondy Wintercreep</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18” 24”</td>
<td>Yellow leaves with green margins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euonymus fortunei ‘Kewensis’</td>
<td>Wintercreep euonymous</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6” 12”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festuca ‘Beyond Blue’</td>
<td>Blue Rescue</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12” 18”</td>
<td>Blue foliage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geranium ‘Gerwat’ Rozanne</td>
<td>Rozanne geranium</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18” 18”</td>
<td>Cut to the ground in late winter for neater appearance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Name</td>
<td>Scientific Name</td>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>D or E</td>
<td>Native</td>
<td>Exposure</td>
<td>Mature Size</td>
<td>Comments</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geranium macrorrhizum cultivars</td>
<td>Hardy Geranium</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>(Semi)</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
<td>Cut to the ground in late winter for neater appearance.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geranium x cantabrigiense</td>
<td>‘Cambridge’ or ‘Biokovo’ Perennial Geranium</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
<td>Cut to the ground in late winter for neater appearance.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris douglasiana</td>
<td>Pacific Coast Iris</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>For neater appearance cut back dead leaves and flower stalks. Many colors available. May need dividing every few years. Reasons for division include dieback in center and to increase coverage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris sibirica cultivars</td>
<td>Siberian Iris</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>(Semi)</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>For neater appearance cut back dead leaves and flower stalks. May need dividing every few years. Reasons for division include dieback in center and to increase coverage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juniperus conferta ‘Blue Pacific’</td>
<td>Blue Pacific Shore Juniper</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>8’</td>
<td>Cut to the ground in March every 2-3 years if old leaves are unattractive.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liriope muscari and cultivars</td>
<td>Lily Turf</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>Cut to the ground in March every 2-3 years if old leaves are unattractive.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahonia nervosa</td>
<td>Compact Oregon Grape</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
<td>GPP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahonia repens</td>
<td>Creeping Oregon Grape</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
<td>GPP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pachysandra terminalis</td>
<td>Japanese Spurge</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>6&quot;</td>
<td>6&quot;</td>
<td>GPP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarcococca hookeriana humilis</td>
<td>Himalayan Sweet Box</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
<td>5’</td>
<td>GPP. Winter fragrance.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedum album ‘Coral Carpet’</td>
<td>Miniature Stonecrop</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>1&quot;</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>Can be cut back by half in June to prevent flopping. May need dividing every few years. Reasons for division include dieback in center and to increase coverage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedum ‘Autumn Joy’ or ‘Matrona’</td>
<td>Stonecrop</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
<td>Can be cut back by half in June to prevent flopping. May need dividing every few years. Reasons for division include dieback in center and to increase coverage.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sedum divergens</td>
<td>Stonecrop</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>6&quot;</td>
<td>6”</td>
<td>Tolerates hot dry sites.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedum oreganum</td>
<td>Stonecrop</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>6&quot;</td>
<td>6”</td>
<td>Tolerates hot dry sites.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tellima grandiflora</td>
<td>Fringecup</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>Flowers to 36”. Cut off flower stalks to prevent unwanted seeding.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teucrium chamaedrys</td>
<td>Wall Germander</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
<td>24”</td>
<td>Tolerates hot dry sites.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Name</td>
<td>Scientific Name</td>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>D or E</td>
<td>Native</td>
<td>Exposure</td>
<td>Mature Size</td>
<td>Comments</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Tolmiea menziesii</em></td>
<td>Youth on Age</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>12” 12”</td>
<td>Cut off flower stalks to prevent unwanted seeding.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Vancouveria hexandra</em></td>
<td>Inside-Out Flower</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>E (Semi)</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>12” 12”</td>
<td>GPP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Veronica repens</em></td>
<td>Speedwell</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>6” 12”</td>
<td>Cobalt blue flowers in summer.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plants 2' to 5'</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Carex obnupta</em></td>
<td>Slough Sedge</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>2’ – 3’ 24”</td>
<td>Cut to the ground or thin in March every 2-3 years if overcrowded.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Caryopteris clandonensis cultivars</em></td>
<td>Bluebeard</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>○</td>
<td>4’ 4’</td>
<td>GPP. Gold foliage and late summer blue flowers. Deciduous. Drought tolerant. Best if pruned to 8 inches in late summer.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Cornus sanguinea ‘Midwinter Fire’</em></td>
<td>Midwinter Fire Dogwood</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>5’ 5’</td>
<td>Prune to ground in March if too high and to maintain colorful twigs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Cornus sericea ‘Kelseyii’</em></td>
<td>Kelsey Redstem Dogwood</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>24” 30”</td>
<td>Prune to ground in March if too high and to maintain colorful twigs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Echinacea purpurea</em> and cultivars</td>
<td>Coneflower</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>○</td>
<td>2’ – 3’ 36”</td>
<td>Leave foliage and seed heads for winter interest and cut back in March before new growth emerges.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fuchsia magellanica ‘Aurea’</em></td>
<td>Dwarf Hardy Fuchsia</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>○</td>
<td>2’ – 3’ 2’ – 3’</td>
<td>Remove dead stems in early spring.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Gaultheria shallon</em></td>
<td>Salal</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>2’ – 5’ 2’ – 3’</td>
<td>If height is a problem, plant can be trimmed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Helictotrichon sempervirens</em></td>
<td>Blue Oat Grass</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td>○</td>
<td>2’ – 3’ 24”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hydrangea quercifolia ‘Pee Wee’</em></td>
<td>Oak-Leaf Hydrangea</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>○</td>
<td>4’ 3’</td>
<td>Late summer flowers and Fall color. Bold leaves in winter.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Juncus effusus cultivars</em></td>
<td>Soft Rush</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>2’ – 3’ 2’ – 3’</td>
<td>Cut to the ground or thin in March every 2-3 years if overcrowded.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Juncus patens cultivars</em></td>
<td>California Gray Rush</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td>○</td>
<td>30” 18”</td>
<td>Cut to the ground or thin in March every 2-3 years if overcrowded.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Philadelphus x virginalis ‘Belle Etoile’</em></td>
<td>Dwarf Mock Orange</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>○</td>
<td>4’ 4’</td>
<td>Deciduous. Fragrant flowers in summer.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Pieris japonica ‘Little Heath’</em></td>
<td>Little Heath Lily of the Valley</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td>○</td>
<td>4’ 3’</td>
<td>Variegated foliage that emerges pink in spring. Flowers in winter.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Polystichum munitum</em></td>
<td>Western Sword Fern</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>2’ – 3’ 2’ – 3’</td>
<td>GPP. Cut back in early spring before new fronds appear.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Name</td>
<td>Scientific Name</td>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>D or E</td>
<td>Native</td>
<td>Exposure</td>
<td>Mature Size</td>
<td>Comments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| *Polystichum neolobatum*  
Asian Saber Fern                    |                 | 2 3  | E      |        |          | 24” 30”     | GPP. Cut back in early spring before new fronds appear.                |
| *Potentilla fruticosa* cultivars  
Potentilla                          |                 | 2 3  | D N    |        |          | 24” 24”     |                                                                         |
| *Prunus laurocerasus* ‘Mount Vernon’  
Mount Vernon Cherry Laurel         |                 | 3    | E      |        |          | 24” 5’      | GPP.                                                                     |
| *Rudbeckia fulgida* and cultivars  
Black-Eyed Susan                   |                 | 2 3  | D      |        |          | 2’–3’ 3’    | GPP. Blooms in summer. Cut back any time fall to early spring before new growth emerges. |
| *Sarcococca confusa* Sweet Box     |                 | 3    | E      |        |          | 3’–5’ 5’    | GPP. Winter fragrance.                                                   |
| *Scirpus microcarpus* Small-Fruited Bulrush |             | 1    | E N    |        |          | 2’–3’ 24”   | Cut to the ground or thin in March every 2-3 years if overcrowded.      |
| *Spiraea* ‘Magic Carpet’  
Magic Carpet Spirea                  |                 | 3    | D N    |        |          | 2’–3’ 3’    | Yellow-orange leaves in spring, followed with pink flowers             |

**Large Shrubs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>D or E</th>
<th>Native</th>
<th>Exposure</th>
<th>Mature Size</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| *Arbutus unedo* ‘Compacta’  
Strawberry Tree                      |                 | 3    | E      |        |          | 10’ 10’      | GPP. Upright multi-stemmed.                                 |
| *Hamamelis x intermedia* cultivars  
Witch Hazel                          |                 | 3    | D      |        |          | 12’ 12’      | GPP. Late winter flowers.                                  |
| *Mahonia aquifolium* Oregon Grape   |                 | 2 3  | E N    |        |          | 6’–8’ 5’    | Upright multi-stemmed.                                     |
| *Mahonia* ‘Charity’  
Ornamental Mahonia                    |                 | 2 3  | E      |        |          | 10’ 4’      | GPP. Upright multi-stemmed.                                 |
| *Ribes sanguineum* and cultivars  
Red Flowering Currant                |                 | 3    | D N    |        |          | 8’ 8’        | GPP. Attracts hummingbirds.                                 |
| *Sambucus nigra* ‘Black Lace’  
Black Lace Elderberry                 |                 | 1 2 3| D      |        |          | 6’–8’ 4’    | GPP.                                                      |
| *Vaccinium ovatum* Evergreen Huckleberry |               | 2 3  | E N    |        |          | 6’ 4’       | GPP.                                                      |
| *Vaccinium* ‘Sunshine Blue’  
Blueberry                              |                 | 3    | D      |        |          | 6’ 6’       | GPP. Self-pollinating edible fruits. Good fall color.      |

**Trees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>D or E</th>
<th>Native</th>
<th>Exposure</th>
<th>Mature Size</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Acer circinatum</em> Vine Maple</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>D N</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25’ 15’</td>
<td>GPP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Acer griseum</em> Paperbark Maple</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30’ 20’</td>
<td>GPP. 3-season interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Calocedrus decurrens</em> Incense Cedar</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>75’ 15’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Name</td>
<td>Scientific Name</td>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>D or E</td>
<td>Native</td>
<td>Exposure</td>
<td>Mature Size</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Carpinus betulus</em> 'Fastigiata'</td>
<td>Pyramidal European Hornbeam</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Chamaecyparis obtusa</em> gracilis</td>
<td>Dwarf Hinoki Cypress</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Cornus</em> 'Eddie’s White Wonder’</td>
<td>Eddie’s White Wonder Dogwood</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GPP. 3-season interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Fagus sylvatica</em> ‘Asplenifolia’</td>
<td>Fernleaf Beech</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GPP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ginkgo biloba</em> and cultivars</td>
<td>Ginkgo</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Magnolia ‘Elizabeth’</em></td>
<td>Elizabeth Magnolia</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GPP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Magnolia grandiflora</em> and cultivars</td>
<td>Evergreen Magnolia</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GPP. Summer Flowering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Nyssa sylvatica</em></td>
<td>Black Tupelo</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>GPP. Outstanding fall color.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Oxydendron arboreum</em></td>
<td>Sourwood</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GPP. Outstanding fall color.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Parrotia persica</em> and cultivars</td>
<td>Persian Ironwood</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GPP. Outstanding fall color.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Pinus contorta</em> contorta</td>
<td>Shore Pine</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rhamnus purshiana</em></td>
<td>Cascara</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Stewartia pseudocamellia</em></td>
<td>Japanese Stewartia</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GPP. 3-season interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Styrax japonica</em></td>
<td>Japanese Styrax</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Thuja plicata</em> ‘Excelsa’ or ‘Hogan’</td>
<td>Western Red Cedar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Narrow form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ulmus</em> ‘Frontier’ or ‘Morton Glossy’</td>
<td>Frontier or Morton Glossy Elm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Zelkova serrata</em> ‘Greenvase’ or ‘Village Green’</td>
<td>Green Vase or Village Vase Zelkova</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GPP.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For More Plant Choices

- Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington
  www.seattle.gov/util/cs/groups/public/@spu/@usm/documents/webcontent/spu01_006288.pdf
- Seattle Green Factor Plant List
  www.seattle.gov/dpd/cs/groups/pan/@pan/documents/web_informational/dpds021347.pdf
- Great Plant Picks (especially for planting the slopes and top of rain gardens)
  www.greatplantpicks.org
- King County Native Plant Guide
  green2.kingcounty.gov/gonative/index.aspx

Many thanks to the Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington.