

## The Plants of WVDEP's Rain Garden

### Perennials

A perennial plant (from Latin *per*, meaning "through", and *annus*, meaning "year") is a plant that lives for more than two years. The term is often used to differentiate a plant from shorter-lived annuals and biennials. The term is also widely used to distinguish plants with little or no woody growth from trees and shrubs, which are also technically perennials.

Perennials, especially small flowering plants, that grow and bloom over the spring and summer, die back every autumn and winter, and then return in the spring from their root-stock, are known as *herbaceous perennials*. However, depending on the rigors of local climate, a plant that is a perennial in its native habitat, or in a milder garden, may be treated by a gardener as an annual and planted out every year, from seed, from cuttings or from divisions. Tomato vines, for example, live several years in their natural tropical/subtropical habitat but are grown as annuals in temperate regions because they don't survive the winter.



***Silphium perfoliatum***

#### Cup plant

Type: Herbaceous perennial  
Family: Asteraceae  
Range: Central-eastern Canada to southeastern US  
Height: 4 - 8 ft; spread: 1 - 3 ft  
Blooms: July to September  
Sun: Full sun  
Water: Medium to wet  
Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FACW



***Senna marilandica***

#### Wild senna

Type: Herbaceous perennial  
Family: Fabaceae  
Range: Midwest and southeastern US  
Height: 3 - 6 ft; spread: 2 - 3 ft  
Blooms: July to August  
Sun: Full sun  
Water: Medium  
Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FACW



***Solidago canadensis***

#### Canada goldenrod

Type: Herbaceous perennial  
Family: Asteraceae  
Range: Northeastern and north central North America  
Height: 2 - 6 ft; spread: 2 - 3 ft  
Blooms: September to October  
Sun: Full sun  
Water: Medium to wet  
Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FACU



***Eutrochium fistulosum***

#### Joe Pye weed

Type: Herbaceous perennial  
Family: Asteraceae  
Range: Eastern US  
Height: 4 - 7 ft; spread: 2 - 4 ft  
Blooms: July to September  
Sun: Full sun to part shade  
Water: Medium to wet  
Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FACW



***Vernonia gigantea***

#### Giant ironweed

Type: Herbaceous perennial  
Family: Asteraceae  
Range: Eastern US  
Height: 5 - 8 ft; spread: 3 - 6 ft  
Blooms: August to September  
Sun: Full sun to part shade  
Water: Medium to wet  
Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FAC

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### *Rudbeckia hirta*

#### **Black-eyed Susan**

Type: Herbaceous perennial  
Family: Asteraceae  
Range: Central US  
Height: 2 - 3 ft; spread: 1 - 2 ft  
Blooms: June to September  
Sun: Full sun  
Water: Medium  
Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FACU



### *Baptisia australis*

#### **Blue false indigo**

Type: Herbaceous perennial  
Family: Fabaceae  
Range: Eastern US  
Height: 3 - 4 ft; spread: 3 - 4 ft  
Blooms: May to June  
Sun: Full sun to part shade  
Water: Dry to medium  
Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FACU



### *Symphyotrichum laeve*

#### **Smooth aster**

Type: Herbaceous perennial  
Family: Asteraceae  
Range: Northwestern US  
Height: 2 - 4 ft; spread: 1 - 2 ft  
Blooms: September to October  
Sun: Full sun  
Water: Dry to medium  
Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FACU



### *Asclepias tuberosa*

#### **Butterfly weed**

Type: Herbaceous perennial  
Family: Apocynaceae  
Range: Eastern and southern US  
Height: 1 - 2.5 ft; spread: 1 - 1.5 ft  
Blooms: June to August  
Sun: Full sun  
Water: Dry to medium  
Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FAC

## Shrubs

A shrub is distinguished from a tree by its multiple stems and shorter height, usually less than 6 m (20 ft) tall. Plants of many species may grow either into shrubs or trees, depending on their growing conditions. Small, low shrubs, generally less than 2 m (6.6 ft) tall, such as lavender, periwinkle and most small garden varieties of roses, are often termed sub-shrubs or bushes.



### *Hamamelis virginiana*

#### **Common witch hazel**

Type: Deciduous shrub  
Family: Hamamelidaceae  
Range: Eastern North America  
Height: 15 - 20 ft; spread: 15 - 20 ft  
Blooms: October to December  
Water: Medium  
Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FAC



## The Plants of WVDEP's Rain Garden



### *Lindera benzoin*

#### Spice bush

Type: Deciduous shrub  
 Family: Lauraceae  
 Range: Eastern US  
 Height: 6 - 12 ft; spread: 6 - 12 ft  
 Blooms: March  
 Sun: Full sun to part shade  
 Water: Medium  
 Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FACW



### *Euonymus atropurpureus*

#### Eastern wahoo

Type: Deciduous shrub  
 Family: Celastraceae  
 Range: Eastern North America  
 Height: 12 - 20 ft; spread: 15 - 25 ft  
 Blooms: June  
 Sun: Full sun to part shade  
 Water: Medium  
 Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FAC



### *Euonymus americanus*

#### Strawberry bush

Type: Deciduous shrub  
 Family: Celastraceae  
 Range: Eastern US  
 Height: 4 - 6 ft; spread: 4 - 6 ft  
 Blooms: May to June  
 Sun: Part shade  
 Water: Medium  
 Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FACW



### *Cornus racemosa*

#### Gray dogwood

Type: Deciduous shrub  
 Family: Cornaceae  
 Range: Eastern North America  
 Height: 10 - 15 ft; spread: 10 - 15 ft  
 Blooms: May to June  
 Sun: Full sun to part shade  
 Water: Medium  
 Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FAC



### *Ilex verticillata*

#### Winterberry

Type: Deciduous shrub  
 Family: Aquifoliaceae  
 Range: Eastern North America  
 Height: 3 - 12 ft; spread: 3 - 12 ft  
 Blooms: June to July  
 Sun: Full sun to part shade  
 Water: Medium to wet  
 Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FACW



### *Viburnum prunifolium*

#### Blackhaw viburnum

Type: Deciduous shrub  
 Family: Adoxaceae  
 Range: Eastern and central North America  
 Height: 12 - 15 ft; spread: 6 - 12 ft  
 Blooms: May to June  
 Sun: Full sun to part shade  
 Water: Dry to medium  
 Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FACU

## The Plants of WVDEP's Rain Garden

### Grasses

The **Poaceae** (also called **Gramineae** or true grasses) are a large and nearly ubiquitous family of monocotyledonous flowering plants. With more than 10,000 domesticated and wild species, the Poaceae represent the fifth-largest plant family, following the Asteraceae, Orchidaceae, Fabaceae, and Rubiaceae. Though commonly called "grasses", sea grasses, rushes, and sedges fall outside this family. The rushes and sedges are related to the Poaceae, being members of the order Poales, but the sea grasses are members of order Alismatales.

Grasslands are estimated to compose 20% of the vegetation cover of the Earth. Poaceae live in many other habitats, including wetlands, forests, and tundra.



#### *Panicum virgatum*

##### Switch grass

Type: Ornamental grass  
Family: Poaceae  
Range: Central America to southern Canada  
Height: 3 – 6 ft; spread: 2 – 3 ft  
Blooms: July to February  
Sun: Full sun to part shade  
Water: Medium to wet  
Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FACW



#### *Chasmanthium latifolium*

##### River oats

Type: Ornamental grass  
Family: Poaceae  
Native Range: Eastern US, northern Mexico  
Height: 2 -- 5 ft; spread: 1 - 2.5 ft  
Blooms: August to September  
Sun: Full sun to part shade  
Water: Medium to wet  
Maintenance: Low

Wetland indicator status: FAC

### References

1. <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/>
2. <http://extension.psu.edu/plants/gardening/maescapes/rain-gardens/plants-rain-gardens>
3. [http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/raingarden\\_design/index.htm](http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/raingarden_design/index.htm)
4. <http://www.dep.wv.gov/WWE/getinvolved/sos/Pages/WVwet-flora.aspx>
5. <http://plants.usda.gov/java/>

### Wetland indicator status

Code	Status	Designation	Comment
OBL	Obligate Wetland	Hydrophyte	Almost always occurs in wetlands
FACW	Facultative Wetland	Hydrophyte	Usually occurs in wetlands, but may occur in non-wetlands
FAC	Facultative	Hydrophyte	Occurs in wetlands and non-wetlands
FACU	Facultative Upland	Non-hydrophyte	Usually occurs in non-wetlands, but may occur in wetlands
UPL	Obligate Upland	Non-hydrophyte	Almost never occurs in wetlands



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