

Plants often recommended for Raingardens

Use With Caution!

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Genus	species	common names	reason for caution	height
Aster	novae-angliae	New England aster	gets leggy, stems ugly, too tall for smaller sites	2 - 6 ft
Calamagrostis	canadensis	blue joint grass	rhizomatous - spreads aggressively by root, almost impossible to remove	4 ft
Caltha	palustris	marsh marigold	wetland species - may not tolerate dry season	6 in
Campanula	americana	tall bellflower	very pretty but too tall - suitable only for very large sites	3 - 6 ft
Cassia	hebecarpia	wild senna	too tall - suitable only for very large sites	5 - 6 ft
Desmodium	canadense	showy tick trefoil	produces obnoxious "stick-tights", too tall for smaller sites	4 - 6 ft
Desmodium	illinoense	IL bundle flower, IL tick trefoil	too tall - suitable only for very large sites, not tolerant of wet sites	5 - 6 ft
Echinacea	purpurea	purple coneflower	needs watering during dry spells, native only to far S Iowa	3 ft
Epilobium	angustifolium	fireweed	too tall - suitable only for very large sites	4 - 7 ft
Eupatorium	purpureum	joe pye, boneset	too tall - suitable only for very large sites	3 - 7 ft
Eupatorium	maculatum	spotted joe pye	too tall - suitable only for very large sites	2 - 7 ft
Hydrophyllum	virginicum	VA waterleaf	invasive species	1 - 2 ft
Leersia	oryzoides	rice cut grass	rhizomatous - spreads aggressively by root, almost impossible to remove	4 ft
Liatris	spicata	marsh blazing star	may get tall and flop over, especially if it given any shade	4 - 5 ft
Liatris	ligulistylis	meadow blazing star	may get tall and flop over, especially if it given any shade	4 - 5 ft
Lobelia	cardinalis	cardinal flower	wetland species - may not tolerate dry season	2 - 3 ft
Physostegia	virginiana	obedient plant	rhizomatous - spreads aggressively by root, almost impossible to remove	2 - 3 ft
Pontederia	cordata	pickerel weed	wetland species - may not tolerate dry season	1 - 3 ft
Ratibida	pinnata	yellow coneflower	gets rank, too big for smaller sites, reseeds profusely	4 ft
Rosa	spp.	wild rose, prairie rose	rhizomatous - spreads aggressively by root, almost impossible to remove	4 ft
Rudbeckia	subtomentosa	sweet coneflower	too tall - suitable only for very large sites	4 - 6 ft
Sagittaria	latifolia	arrowhead	wetland species - may not tolerate dry season	4 ft
Scirpus	atrovirens	dark green bulrush	too tall - suitable only for very large sites	4 - 6 ft
Scirpus	validus	soft-stemmed bulrush	wetland species - may not tolerate dry season, rhizomatous	8 ft
Scirpus	fluviatilis	river bulrush	wetland species - may not tolerate dry season	3 - 5 ft
Silphium	spp.	cup plant, rosin weed etc.	too tall for smaller areas, all silphiums reseed profusely - including into sod	4 - 8 ft
Solidago	spp.	goldenrods	reseed profusely, some also spread by rhizomatous roots	varies
Sparangium	eurycarpum	common bur-reed	wetland species - may not tolerate dry season	2 - 4 ft
Spartina	pectinata	prairie cord grass	wetland species - may not tolerate dry season	4 - 7 ft
Thalictrum	pubescens	tall meadow rue	too tall - suitable only for very large sites	3 - 8 ft
Vernonia	fasciculata	ironweed	too tall - suitable only for very large sites	4 - 6 ft
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