

Texas Rain Garden Plant List (draft)

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A rain garden is an attractive method for controlling stormwater damage and runoff. A rain garden captures and temporarily holds rainwater until the ground can absorb the water. The plants should compliment the rest of the landscape. The best plants for a rain garden are native and adapted plants that thrive in your area. Below is a short list of plants commonly recommended for Texas landscapes that will grow in a rain garden. Climates across the state vary dramatically, so some of these plants may not fit well in your area. To find a list of landscape plants created specifically for your region, contact the Extension office in your county or go to the following website:

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/EKSelector.html>

Many of the landscape plants recommended for your region will grow in a rain garden. Contact information for Texas AgriLife Extension Service county offices is available at <http://texasextension.tamu.edu/county/>, or in the county government pages of the local telephone book.

Plants in the depression or swale area of a rain garden must tolerate wet roots for the amount of time the rainwater takes to drain, usually 24 to 48 hours. Soil preparation and mulch will help the plants grow and thrive. Provide irrigation and fertilizer for the rain garden as required.



Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Width	Light Req.	Moisture Tolerance
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Perennials

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	1'	1'	S	D
<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Sweet Flag	4'	2'	S	W
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Southern Maidenhair	2'	1'	SH	W
<i>Alstromeria pulchella</i>	Peruvian Lily	3'	2'	S/PSH	W/D
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	False Indigo	10'	7'	S	W/D
<i>Amsonia illustrata</i>	Blue Texas Star	1'	1'	S/PSH	D
<i>Anisacanthus quadrifidus</i> var. <i>wrightii</i>	Flame Acanthus	4'	4'	S	D
<i>Aquilegia hinckleyana</i>	Texas Columbine	1'	1'	S	W/D
<i>Aquilegia longissima</i>	Longspur Columbine	1'	1'	PSH	W/D
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp milkweed	5'	3'	S	W
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed	3'	6"	S	D
<i>Aspidistra elatior</i>	Cast Iron Plant	2'	2'	SH	W/D
<i>Aster subulatus</i>	Baby's Breath Aster	3'	2'	S	W/D
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Blue False Indigo	3'-6'	2'	S	W
<i>Calyptocarpus vialis</i>	Horseherb	4"	18"	SH	W/D
<i>Canna generalis</i>	Canna	2'-6'	2'-6'	S	W
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i> 'Moonbeam'	Moonbean Coreopsis	1'	1'	S/PSH	W/D
<i>Crinum americanum</i>	Crinum Lily	2'	2'	S	W/D
<i>Cyperus alternifolius</i>	Umbrella Sedge	4'	4'	SH	W
<i>Delphinium virescens</i>	Prairie Larkspur	4'	6"	S	W/D

S – Sun SH – Shade PSH – Part Shade W – Wet D – Dry

<i>Dichondra argentea</i> 'Silver Falls'	Silver Falls	2"	4"	S/PSH	D
<i>Dryopteris normalis</i>	Wood Fern	3'	1'	SH	W
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Cone Flower	2'	2'	S	W/D
<i>Equisetum hymenale</i>	Horsetail Reed	4'	6'	S/PSH	W
<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	Blue Mistflower	8"	16"	S	W/D
<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Joe-Pye Weed	4'	2-4'	S/PSH	W
<i>Gaillardia spp.</i>	Blanketflower	2'	2'	S	D
<i>Habranthus spp.</i>	Copper Lily	1'	4"	S/PSH	D
<i>Hedychium coronarium</i>	Butterfly Ginger	3-7'	2'	S/PSH	W
<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	Swamp Sunflower	6'	4'	S	W
<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>	Maximilian Sunflower	5-7'	3'	S	D
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Ox-eyed Sunflower	3-5'	2-4'	S	W
<i>Hemerocallis spp.</i>	Daylilies	3'	2'	S	W/D
<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>	Red Star Hibiscus	4-6'	3'	S	D
<i>Hibiscus militaris</i> or <i>H. laevis</i>	Halbred Leafed Swamp Hibiscus	4-6'	3'	S	W
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Rose Mallow	3-4'	Varies	S	W/D
<i>Hymenocallis lirisome</i>	Spider Lily	2'	1'	S	W/D
<i>Ipomopsis rubra</i>	Standing Cypress	2'-6'	6"-12"	S	W
<i>Iris Breaded spp and hybrids</i>	Iris	12"	6"	S	D
<i>Iris brevicaulis and hybrids</i>	Louisiana Iris	3'	6"	S/PSH	W
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Flag Iris	3'	1'	S/PSG	W
<i>Kosteletzkya virginica</i>	Marsh Mallow	6'	6'	S	W

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<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Gayfeather	2'	18"	S	W
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	2'-4'	2'	S/PSH	W
<i>Malvaviscus aboreus</i>	Giant Turk's Cap	4-6'	1'	S/PSH	W/D
<i>M. aboreus</i> var. <i>drummondii</i>	Tuck's Cap	2-3'	1'	PSH/SH	W/D
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Bee Balm	2'	2'	S	W/D
<i>Oxalis bowiei</i>	Wood Sorrel	6-12"	6"	S/PSH	W/D
<i>Oenothera speciosa</i>	Pink Evening Primrose	6-12"	12-15"	SH	W/D
<i>Phyla incisa</i>	Frogfruit	3-6"	6"	S/SH	W/D
<i>Physotegia intermedia</i>	Spring Obedient Plant	3-6'	1'	S/PSH	W
<i>Physotegia virginiana</i>	Fall Obedient Plant	4'	2'	S/SH	W
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	1-2'	1'	S	W/D
<i>Ruellia</i> spp.	Mexican Petunia	3'	3'	S/PSH	W/D
<i>Ruellia brittoniana</i> 'Katie's'	Ruellia Katie	6"	12"	S	W/D
<i>Setcreasea pallida</i>	Purple Heart	12"	24"	S/PSH	W/D
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	Blue-eyed grass	6"-12"	12"	S	W/D
<i>Solidago</i> spp.	Goldenrod	2'-4'	3-5'	S	W/D
<i>Stachys byzantine</i>	Lamb's Ear	6"	12"	S	D
<i>Stokesia laevis</i>	Stokes Aster	2'	2'	S	D
<i>Tagetes lucida</i>	Mexican mint Marigold	1-2'	1-3'	S	W/D
<i>Tradescantia occidentalis</i>	Spiderwort	2'	1'	SH/PSH	W/D
<i>Vernonia</i> spp.	Ironweed	4-6'	1'	S	W
<i>Zephyranthes</i> spp.	Rain Lily	6"-10"	6-12"	S	W

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Ornamental Grasses

<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big bluestem	6'	Varies*	S	D
<i>Bouteloua dactyloides</i>	Buffalograss	6"		S	D
<i>Carex spp</i>	Sedge	Varies		S/SH	W/D
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	Inland Seaoats	2'-4'		SH	W
<i>Muhlenbergia reverchoni</i>	Seep Muhly	2-4'		S	W
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switch Grass	3-4'		S	W/D
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian Grass	3-8'		S	W/D
<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	Eastern Gama Grass	4-8'		S/SH	W/D

*Widths of ornamental grasses become larger each year so it's important to manage their lateral growth.

Shrubs

<i>Baccharis halmifolia</i>	Baccharis	5-12'	5-7'	S/PSH	W/D
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	American Beauty Berry	4'-6'	5'-8'	S/SH	W/D
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	10'	10'	S/PSH	W
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	Possumhaw Holly	20'	15'	S/SH	W/D
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	Yaupon	20'	20'	S/SH	W/D
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Sweetspire	3-4'	4-6'	S/PSH	W
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	Southern Wax Myrtle	15'	10'	S/SH	W/D
<i>Sabal minor</i>	Dwarf Palmetto	4'	5'	SH	W/D
<i>Spirea x bumalda 'Anthony Waterer'</i>	Anthony Water Spirea	2-3'	3'	S	D
<i>Ungnadia speciosa</i>	Mexican Buckeye	20'	8-12'	S/SH	D

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Trees

<i>Acer rubrun var. drummondi</i>	Southern Swamp Maple	70'	30'	S	W/D
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Pawpaw	15'	15'	SH/PSH	W/D
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch	30'	15'	S	W
<i>Crataegus spp.</i>	Various Native Hawthorns	15-25'	15-20'	S	W/D
<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	Cabbage Palm	30-40'	12'	S/PSH	W/D
<i>Sophora affinis</i>	Eve's Necklace	30'	20'	S	W/D
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald Cypress	70'	30'	S	W/D

Vines

<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	Cross Vine	36-50' long	S/PSH	W/D
<i>Clematis pitcheri</i>	Leatherflower	6-10' long	S/PSH	W
<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	Carolina Jessamine	10-20' long	S/PSH	W

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