



Vermont Raingarden Native Plant List

The following plants have been selected because they are tolerant of both occasional inundation and drier periods. However, the 'zone' column describes whether you should place the plant in the wettest spots in your raingarden (W) where water will pond during a rain event, slightly moist areas (M) or around the drier, drained edges of the garden (D). All are native species to Vermont, and should need minimal maintenance once established. Your raingarden will be most successful if you buy one or two-year old plants to transplant into your garden instead of using seed, although seeding is also acceptable if you are on a tight budget. Do not harvest plants from the wild.

Light Key: FS = Full Sun; PSH = Part Shade; SH = Shade

Zone Key: W = wettest area; M = moist area; D = drier garden edges

Scientific Name	Common Name	Form	Light	Bloom	Height	Zone	Comments
<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	Canada Anemone	Flowering Perennial	FS to SH	White, spring to summer	1-2'	M	
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Columbine	Flowering Perennial	PSH	Red and yellow, early summer	1-2'	M	Attractive to hummingbirds
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-pulpit	Flowering Perennial	PSH to SH	Dk purple, spring to early summer	1'	M	Unusual flower, bright red berries
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	orange, early summer	1'-2'	W	Host plant for swallowtail & monarch butterflies
<i>Aster lateriflorus</i>	Calico Aster	Flowering Perennial	FS	Pink/white, late summer to fall	1-4'	M	Plum colored foliage in fall
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	Pink-purple, fall	1'-6'	M	Attractive to butterflies
<i>Aster novi-belgii</i>	New York Aster	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	Blue-violet, late summer – fall	3'-4'	W	Long-lived flowers. Butterfly attractant.
<i>Aster tradescanti</i>	Tradescant Aster	Flowering Perennial	FS	White, fall	1-2'	M	Attractive to butterflies
<i>Aster umbellatus</i>	Flat Top White Aster	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	White, summer	1-5'	M	Attractive to butterflies
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Blue False Indigo	Flowering Perennial	FS	Blue, early summer	3'-6'	D	Nice looking foliage, pea family
<i>Boltonia asteroides</i>	White Doll's Daisy	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	White to pink, fall	4'-6'	M	Attractive to butterflies. Makes nice cut flowers.
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	Yellow, spring to early summer	1'-2'	W	Prefers moist soil
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	White Turtlehead	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	White, late summer to fall	2'-3'	W	Attracts hummingbirds, likes wet areas
<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Sweet Joe-Pye Weed	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	Pink-purple, summer	2-4'	M	Smaller than <i>E. maculatum</i> . Attracts butterflies
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Spotted Joe-Pye Weed	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	Pink, late summer	3-6'	M	Attractive to butterflies
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Boneset	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	White, late summer to fall	3'-4'	W	Attractive to butterflies
<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	Bottle Gentian	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	Deep blue, late summer to fall	1' – 1.5'	M	
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Sneezeweed	Flowering Perennial	FS	Yellow, late summer to fall	3-4'	W	Attracts butterflies, showy daisy-like flowers
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Flag Iris	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	blue-violet, early summer	2'-4'	W	Best in moist soils, beautiful blue flowers
<i>Lilium canadense</i>	Canada Lily	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	Yellow, summer	3-4'	M	
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	Red, summer	1'-5'	W	Attractive to hummingbirds
<i>Lobelia syphilitica</i>	Blue Lobelia	Flowering Perennial	FS to SH	Blue, late summer to fall	1'-3'	W	
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Bebalm, Oswego Tea	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	Red, summer	2'-3'	M	Attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Foxglove Beardtongue	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	White, early summer	2'-4'	M	Attracts hummingbirds, nice foliage
<i>Polygonatum falcatum</i>	Dwarf Solomon's Seal	Flowering Perennial	PSH	White, early spring	1-2'	D	Nice looking foliage, blue berries
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-Eyed Susan	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	Orange-yellow, summer to fall	2'	D	Attractive to butterflies, bright flowers
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Cut-Leaf Coneflower	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	Yellow, late summer	1.5'-9'	M	Attractive to butterflies
<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	Rough-stem Goldenrod	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	Yellow, late summer to fall	1-6'	M	
<i>Syrinchium angustifolium</i>	Pointed Blue-Eyed Grass	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	Blue, summer	1-2'	M	Tiny blue flowers above grassy foliage
<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>	Tall Meadow Rue	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	Purple/white, late spring	3-5'	M	
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Foamflower	Flowering Perennial	PSH to SH	White, early spring	1'	D	Good ground coverage, long blooming wand-like flower
<i>Veratrum viride</i>	False Hellebore	Flowering Perennial	FS to PSH	Green, summer	2-5'	W	Plant is very toxic; avoid ingestion
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue Vervain	Flowering Perennial	FS	Blue-violet, summer to early fall	2-4'	W	Bright flower, herbal uses
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Yellow Alexanders	Flowering Perennial	PSH	Yellow, spring	1-2'	M	
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Spreading Bentgrass	Grass	FS	Not showy, summer	3-5'	M	
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Bluestem	Grass	FS	Purple; fall	3'-7'	M	Seeds provide wildlife forage
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	Blue-Joint Reedgrass	Grass	FS to PSH	Not showy, spring to summer	3-5'	W	
<i>Cinna latifolia</i>	Slender Wood-Reedgrass	Grass	FS to SH	Not showy, late summer	To 5'	M	

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<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair Grass	Grass	FS to PSH	Not showy, late summer	1-3'	M	Grows in bunches
<i>Echinochloa muricata</i>	Rough Barnyard Grass	Grass	FS	Not showy, late summer	4-5'	W	
<i>Elymus riparius</i>	Riverbank Wild Rye	Grass	FS to PSH	Not showy, summer	1-5'	M	
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia Wild Rye	Grass	PSH to SH	Not showy, summer to fall	1'-5'	D	
<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	Rice Cut Grass	Grass	FS to PSH	Not showy, summer	2-6'	W	
<i>Muhlenbergia glomerata</i>	Marsh Muhly	Grass	FS	Not showy, late summer to fall	2-3'	M	
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switch Grass	Grass	FS	Not showy, late summer to fall	3'-6'	M	
<i>Phalaris arundinaceae</i>	Canary Reed Grass	Grass	FS to PSH	Not showy, summer	2-3'	W	Bamboo-like ornamental grass
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indiangrass	Grass	FS to PSH	Golden-brown, late summer	5'-7'	D	
<i>Carex crinita</i>	Fringed Sedge	Grass-like	FS to PSH	Not showy, summer	1'-3'	W	
<i>Carex cristatella</i>	Crested Sedge	Grass-like	FS	Not showy, late summer	1-3'	M	
<i>Carex retrorsa</i>	Retorse Sedge	Grass-like	PSH	Not showy, summer	1-3.5'	W	
<i>Carex stricta</i>	Tussock Sedge	Grass-like	FS to PSH	Not showy, summer	1'-3'	W	
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Fox sedge	Grass-like	FS to PSH	Not showy, summer	1'-3'	W	Prefers moist soil. Seed heads resemble fox tails.
<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>	Horsetail/Scouring Rush	Grass-like	FS to PSH	Non showy, summer	1-3'	M	
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	Grass-like	FS	Not showy, summer	1-4'	W	
<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	Wool-Grass	Grass-like	FS	Brown, late summer	4-6'	W	
<i>Scirpus pungens</i>	Three-Square Bulrush	Grass-like	FS	Not showy, summer	2-4'	W	
<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Maidenhair Fern	Fern	PSH to SH	None	1-3'	M	Beautiful lacy fronds
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady Fern	Fern	PSH to SH	None	1-3'	M	
<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	Marginal Woodfern	Fern	PSH to SH	None	1-2'	D	Clump forming
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	Ostrich Fern	Fern	PSH to SH	None	3-5'	M	Best in moist soils, huge fronds
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive Fern	Fern	PSH to SH	None	1'-2'	M	Will spread to cover ground
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon Fern	Fern	PSH to SH (FS if moist)	none	2'-3'	M	Best in moist soils
<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	Interrupted Fern	Fern	PSH to SH (FS if moist)	None	1-4'	M	Best in moist soils but will adapt to drier soil
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern	Fern	PSH to SH (FS if moist)	None	2'-3'	W	Attractive fall foliage, best in moist soils
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas Fern	Fern	PSH to SH (FS if moist)	None	1-3'	D	Fronds stay green year-round
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry	Shrub	FS to PSH	White to pink, spring	6-10'	M	Red autumn foliage and berries.
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry	Shrub	Sun to part shade	White to pink, spring	3-8'	M	Provides food and shelter for birds. Fruit is bitter.
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	Shrub	Sun	White, late summer	3-6'	W	Multi-stemmed plant, interesting round fruit
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red Osier Dogwood	Shrub	Sun to part shade	White, early summer	4-8'	W	Bright red twigs in winter
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Low Bush Honeysuckle	Shrub	Sun to shade	Yellow, summer	2-5'	M	Songbirds feed on fruits
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry Holly	Shrub	Full sun to part shade	White, spring	5-10'	W	Showy berries in winter; high wildlife value
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	Shrub	Sun to part shade	Greenish yellow, spring	5-10'	M	Fragrant foliage if crushed, nice berries & foliage in fall
<i>Rhus copallinum</i>	Shining or Winged Sumac	Shrub	Sun to part shade	Greenish-yellow, late summer	8-15'	D	
<i>Salix discolor</i>	Pussy Willow	Shrub	Sun	Silky grey, early spring	10-15'	M	Fast growing
<i>Salix purpurea</i>	Purple Osier Willow	Shrub	Sun	Red catkins, spring	3-10'	M	
<i>Spirea alba</i>	Meadowsweet	Shrub	FS to PSH	Pink, summer	3-6'	W	Attractive to butterflies
<i>Spirea tomentosa</i>	Steeplebush	Shrub	FS to PSH	Pink, late summer	2-4'	M	Attractive to butterflies
<i>Sambucus Canadensis</i>	American Elderberry	Shrub	Sun	White, summer	5-10'	M	Berries can be used for preserves
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Northern Arrowwood	Shrub	Full sun to part shade	White, early summer	6-10'	M	High wildlife value
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry	Shrub	Sun to shade	White, spring	10-15'	M	Flowers attract butterflies. Berries attract wildlife.
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	Highbush Cranberry	Shrub	Full sun to part shade	White, spring	4-10'	M	Bright red berries are not true cranberries