# Rain Garden *for Pollinators*

Your pollinator planting can do double duty and improve water quality if it is also a rain garden! These plants will also work well in moist garden conditions. The selected species in this garden and bloom times make it a great butterfly garden.

**Fox Sedge**
Adds texture and beautiful seed heads to a rain garden. It is a tough plant that can easily handle- the saturated conditions of a raingarden basin.

5 plants

FS

**Pussy Toes**
These low-growing fuzzy plants slowly form carpets of foliage. In the spring their flowers rise up gracefully 6"-8" above their leaves.

12 plants

PT

**Blue Eyed Grass**
is a bunch forming early summer bloomer. Not a true grass, its dainty sky blue flowers brighten the early summer garden, and is a great edging plant.

10 plants

BE

**Hoary Vervain**
Bright sprires of color to the summer garden that look great against the bright green of Fox Sedge. It is a host to Common Buckeye butterfly larva.

4 plants

HV

**Swamp Milkweed**
The bright flowers of Swamp Milkweed are unforgetable, and much loved by pollinators. It tends to spread, plan to divide this plant when it out-grows your garden space.

4 plants

SM

**Prairie Onion**
Lavender colored stary blooms in mid-summer rise from bright green clump forming flat-leafed foliage. Will slowly create colonies as the plants become more established.

5 plants

PO

**Joe Pye Weed**
Covered with mid to late summer blooms, Joe Pye is a butterfly magnet. It will spread, be prepared to divide this plant by the third year to share with others!

2 plants

JP

**Blue Lobelia**
howy spires attract bees and butterflies and blooms well into the fall. Can take part shade conditions, but needs moist soil.

5 plants

BL

**Flat-Topped Aster**
Enjoyed by diverse pollinators as well as rabbits and deer. If you have trouble with browsing wildlife, consider substituting with Rattlesnake Master.

3 plants

FT

***Bloom Time***

***May*** ***June*** ***July*** ***August*** ***September-Oct.***

Note:
To make this planting smaller, reduce Joe Pye Weed to one plant, but keep some of the mid-sized plants like Swamp Milkweed and Blue Vervain and low growing plants arrayed around the remaining Joe Pye, the tallest plant in this design.

Featured Pollinator:
**American Lady**
*Vanessa virginiensis*

Caterpillar hosts include
**Pussy Toes**

Nectar plants include
**Swamp Milkweed, Joe Pye Weed, Blue Lobelia, and Flat-Topped Aster**

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# **Substitutions** *for selected species*

Use plants found within their natural range, this helps protect nearby native plant communities and provides plant species that are sure to be compatible with local insect populations.

| Fox Sedge: | Pussy Toes: | Blue Eyed Grass: | Blue Vervain: | Swamp Milk-weed: | Nodding Onion: | Joe Pye Weed: | Blue Lobelia: | Calico Aster: |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sweet Flag, Blue Flag, Big Bluestem, Indian Grass, Long Beaked Sedge*, Tussock Sedge*, Hop Sedge*, Wood Sedge*, River Oats, | Wild Stawberry*, Trout Lily*, Hepatica*, Bloodroot*, Rue Anemone, Common violet*, Bishop's Cap, Spring Beauty* Creeping Phlox•, low growing Sedums• | Bishop's Cap, Wild Columbine, Wild Ginger*, Bloodroot,* Hepatica*, Large-flowered Bellwort*, Foam Flower*, Alumroot, Calamintha•, Golden Alexanders | Culver's Root, Mist Flower, Michigan Lily, Wild Phlox, Garden Phlox•, Meadow Rue, Marsh Blazingstar, Rattlesnake Master, Ironweed, Red Columbine, Rose Mallow | Poke milkweed *, Turtlehead*, Sensitive Plant, Jacob's Ladder*, Blue Giant Hyssop*, Cardinal Flower*, Foxglove Beards-tongue* Thimbleweed | Larkspur, Shooting Star, Rue Anemone*, Pasque Flower, Prairie Smoke, Wood Lily, Wild Lupine, Bishop's Cap*, Spotted Bee-balm*, Bottle Gentian | Angelica, Great Indian Plantain*, Boneset, Button Bush, Pagoda Dogwood*, Ninebark*, Queen of the Prairie, Sweet Joe Pye weed* Ironweed | Turtlehead, Self Heal, Monarda*, Obedient Plant, Cardinal Flower, Woodland Phlox, Virginia Mountain Mint*, Wood Lily, Rose Mallow, Hairy Wood Mint* | New England Aster*, Smooth Blue Aster, Stiff Goldenrod*, Woodland Phlox, Virginia Mountain Mint*, Bottle Gentian, Button Blazing Star*, Frost Aster, Giant Hyssop* |

• *non-native* * *Part Shade to Shade option.*

# **Planting Tips** *for new gardeners*

- Prepare your new garden bed. Use methods found on BWSR's Creating Residential Pollinator Habitat page
- Dig a hole as deep and 2-3 sizes wider than the pot. Remove the pot.
- Loosen roots and remove any roots that have growing a circle around the base of the plant.
- The soil level should be just below the flare of the tree or shrub and the base of your plant.
- Spread roots, then re-fill hole. Tamp soil down gently around the roots. Mulch around the plant, but don't place mulch against the trunk.
- Water immediately after planting, then once a week for the first summer

**TREES & SHRUBS**

**PERENNIAL PLANTS**

- Prepare your new garden bed. Use methods found on BWSR's Creating Residential Pollinator Habitat page
- Dig a hole as deep and 2-3 sizes wider than the pot.
- Remove the pot.
- Loosen roots and remove any roots growing in a circle around the base of the plant.
- Mulch around the plant, but don't place mulch against the stem.
- Water immediately after planting, then once a week for the first summer.

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