

Plants for Rain Gardens

Plant Category: S - shrub; T - tree; D - deciduous; E - evergreen; P - perennial; F - forb; V - vine; G -grass/grasslike

Genus	Common Name	Max Ht (ft.)	Max Width (ft.)	Full Sun	Part Sun	Full Shade	Flooding ok?	Needs Irrigation?	Needs Drainage?	Native?	Plant Category	Comments
Acer buergeranum	Trident Maple	25	25	Y	Y	N	-	Y	-	N	DT	Decorative patio tree. Good fall color.
Acer circinatum	Vine Maple	18	-	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	S/T	Deciduous shrub/tree. Requires summer irrigation. Colorful fall foliage.
Acer macrophyllum	Big Leaf Maple	15-90	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	Deciduous tree. Requires summer irrigation. Yellow fall foliage.
Acer tataricum	Amur Maple	20	20	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	-	N	DT	Showy winged seeds in summer, yellow to reddish brown fall color.
acer truncatum	Shantung Maple	25	25	Y	Y	N	-	Y	-	N	DT	Grows rapidly. Tolerates many soils & environmental. Conditions voracious roots.
Aesculus californica	Buckeye	25	-	Y	Y	N	Y	-	-	Y	T	Deciduous shrub or tree. Large white flower stalks in spring. Slightly toxic seeds.
Agapanthus	Dwarf Lily of the Nile	1.5	-	Y	Y	N	-	Y	Y	N	P	Afternoon shade in hottest area. Established plants can grow & bloom without irrigation during prolonged dry period.
Anemopsis californica	Yerba Mansa	0.8	-	Y	N	N	Y	Y	-	Y	F	Evergreen ground cover. Requires summer irrigation. White flowers in late spring.
Aquilegia formosa	Western Columbine	0.5	-	N	Y	N	-	Y	Y	Y	F	Winter dormant perennial. Requires summer irrigation to maintain foliage. Yellow and red flowers in spring and summer.
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree	-	-	Y	Y	N	-	-	Y	N	ET	Needs good drainage.
Aristolochia californica	CA Dutchman's Pipe	15	-	N	Y	Y	Y	-	-	Y	V	Deciduous vine. Better with summer water. Pipe-shaped flowers in late winter or early spring.
Bidens laevis	Joaquin Sunflower	1	-	Y	N	N	Y	Y	-	Y	F	Annual or perennial. Requires summer irrigation. Small yellow flowers in summer.
Callistemon citrinus	Lemon Bottlebrush	15	15	Y	N	N	Y	Y	-	N	E S/T	Generally in moist soils. Can withstand water logged soil. Severely damaged at 20 F.
Calocedrus decurrens	Incense Cedar	60-150	-	Y	N	N	-	Y	-	Y	T	Evergreen tree. Requires some summer irrigation.
Calycanthus occidentalis	Spice Bush	10	-	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-	Y	S	Evergreen shrub. Requires some summer irrigation.
Canna	n/a	6	4	Y	N	N	-	Y	-	N	P	Can take flooding
Carex barbae	Santa Barbara sedge	0.5	-	Y	N	N	Y	Y	-	Y	F	Evergreen grass-like plant. Can be mowed.
Carex elata	Bowles Golden'	2.5	1.5	Y	N	N	-	Y	-	-	P	Needs ample moisture. Will grow in standing water.
Carex tumulicola	Berkeley Sedge	2	-	Y	Y	N	-	Y	-	Y	F	Evergreen grass-like plant. Can be mowed to about 8".
Carpenteria californica	Bush Anemone	5	-	N	Y	Y	-	-	-	Y	S	Evergreen shrub. Clusters of white flowers in late spring.
Celtis occidentalis	Common Hackberry	50	40+	Y	Y	N	-	Y	-	N	DT	n/a
Celtis reticulata	Hackberry	30	-	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	Deciduous tree. Recommend some summer irrigation to maintain appearance. Yellow fall foliage.
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonwillow	15	-	Y	N	N	Y	Y	-	Y	S	Deciduous shrub or tree. Requires summer irrigation. Large white flower clusters in late summer.
Clematis ligusticifolia	Virgin's Bower	6	-	Y	Y	N	-	Y	-	Y	V	Deciduous vine. Requires summer irrigation. Profuse clusters of white flowers in late spring.
Cornus glabrata	Brown Twig Dogwood	5 to 18	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	S	Deciduous shrub. Requires summer irrigation. White flowers in late spring. Colorful fall foliage.
Corylus cornuta var. californica	California Hazelnut	to 20	-	N	Y	Y	-	Y	-	Y	S/T	Deciduous shrub/tree. Requires summer irrigation. Yellow fall foliage. Produces hazelnuts in fall.
Darmera peltata	Indian Rhubarb	4	-	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	F	Winter dormant perennial. Requires summer irrigation. Clusters of pink flowers before leaves come out.
Deschampsia caespitosa	Tufted Hairgrass	2	-	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-	Y	G	Evergreen grass. Requires summer irrigation.
Deschampsia elongata	Slender Hairgrass	1	-	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	G	Evergreen grass. Requires summer irrigation.
Dicentra formosa	Pacific Bleeding Heart	0.5	-	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	F	Winter dormant perennial. Small pinkish flowers in summer. Recommend summer irrigation to maintain foliage.
Eleocharis montevidensis	n/a	0.2	-	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	G	Jepson's Manual - irrigate or wet, excellent drainage

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Escallonia bifida	White Escallonia	10	10	N	Y	N	-	Y	-	-	ES	Partial shade in hottest climate. Drought tolerant, better with regular watering.
eschscholzia californica	California Poppy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	F	Annual or Biennial. Will stay green with summer water. Orange flowers in spring.
Feijoa sellowiana	Pineapple Guava	25	25	Y	N	N	-	Y	-	-	E S/T	Drought tolerant but needs watering for regular fruiting.
Festuca arundinacea	Tall Fescue	4	-	Y	-	-	-	Y	-	-	P G	Needs good drainage. Can withstand dry conditions & severe frosts.
Festuca idahoensis	Idaho Fescue	1	0.8	Y	N	N	N	-	-	Y	G	Perennial. Recommend occasional summer irrigation for appearance.
Festuca rubra	Creeping Red Fescue	1	-	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-	Y	G	Perennial. Spreads by rhizomes. Requires regular water for good growth. Can be mowed to 1-2".
Fraxinus latifolia	Oregon Ash	to 75	-	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-	Y	T	Deciduous tree. Subject to anthracnose.
Fraxinus latifolia X velutina	Velvet Ash	to 50	-	Y	N	N	Y	Y	-	Y	T	Deciduous tree. Subject to anthracnose
Gymnocladus dioica	Kentucky Coffee Tree	100	50	Y	N	N	-	Y	-	-	DT	Grows best in moist, deep, rich soil. Can adapt to poor soil, drought. Toxic seeds.
Helenium bigelovii	Bigelows Sneezeweed.	2	-	N	Y	N	Y	Y	-	Y	F	Winter dormant perennial. Yellow daisy flowers in summer. Requires summer irrigation.
Hemerocallis	Daylily	5	4	Y	Y	N	-	Y	Y	N	F	Needs well-drained soil amended with organic matter, regular moisture spring - fall.
heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon, Christmas Berry	15	-	Y	N	N	-	-	Y	Y	S	Evergreen shrub. Clusters of red berries over winter. Must have excellent drainage.
Hibiscus lasiocarpus	Rose-Mallow	2.5	-	Y	N	N	Y	Y	-	Y	F	Winter dormant perennial. Large pinkish white flowers in summer. Requires summer irrigation.
Hypericum calycinum	Saint Johnswort	2	indef.	Y	Y	N	-	-	-	-	ES	Difficult to control rust. Takes poor soil, good erosion control. Part shade in hottest climate.
Juglans hindsii	N. Calif. Black Walnut	to 75	-	Y	N	N	Y	Y	-	Y	T	Deciduous tree. Requires summer irrigation. Produces thick-shelled black walnuts in fall.
Juncus effusus	Common Rush	4	-	Y	N	N	Y	Y	-	Y	G	Evergreen grass-like plant. Requires summer irrigation.
Juncus patens	Common Rush	2.5	-	Y	N	N	Y	Y	-	Y	G	Evergreen grass-like plant. Requires summer irrigation.
Koeleria macrantha	June Grass	0.4	-	Y	Y	N	N	-	-	Y	G	Perennial. Recommend occasional summer irrigation for appearance.
Koelreuteria paniculata	Golden Rain Tree	35	40	Y	N	N	-	Y	Y	N	D T	Needs good drainage. Mod. To regular water. Able to adapt to different soils.
Lagerstromia indica	Crape Myrtle	25	25	Y	N	N	-	Y	Y	N	D T/S	Likes mod. Fertile, well drained soil
Laurus nobilis	Grecian Laurel	40	40	Y	Y	N	-	Y	Y	N	E S/T	Soil tolerant. Needs good drainage. Subject to scale & psyllids.
Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal Flower	2	2	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-	N	P	Bog plant in nature. Grows in moist soil.
Lonicera fragrantissima	Winter Honeysuckle	8	8	Y	Y	N	-	Y	Y	N	D S	Provide <u>good</u> drainage.
Mahonia aquifolium	Creeping Oregon Grape.	3	-	N	Y	Y	-	Y	-	Y	S	Evergreen shrub. Recommend summer irrigation to maintain appearance. Small, sulfur-yellow flowers in early spring.
Melica imperfecta	Melic Grass	1	-	Y	Y	N	N	-	-	Y	G	Perennial. Recommend occasional summer irrigation for appearance. Can be mowed to 6-8".
Mimulus cardinalis	Scarlet Monkey Flower	1	-	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	-	Y	F	Winter dormant perennial. Requires summer irrigation. Scarlet flowers in summer.
Mimulus guttatus	Seep Monkey Flower	1	-	Y	Y	N	-	Y	-	Y	F	Annual or winter dormant perennial. Requires summer irrigation. Yellow flowers in spring.
Mimulus lewisii	Monkey Flower	0.5	-	Y	Y	N	-	Y	Y	Y	F	Winter dormant perennial. Requires summer irrigation. Lavender purple flowers in summer.
Mulenbergia rigens	Deergrass	5	-	Y	Y	N	Y	-	-	Y	G	Evergreen grass. Recommend some summer irrigation to maintain appearance.
Myrica californica	Wax Myrtle	6 to 30	-	Y	Y	N	-	Y	-	Y	S	Evergreen shrub. Requires summer irrigation.
Nandina domestica	Heavenly Bamboo	8	4	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	N	ES	Some sun in hottest climates Best in rich soil
Nerium oleander	Oleander	20	12	Y	N	N	-	N	-	N	ES	Tolerates poorly drained soil. All parts poisonous.
Nyssa sylvatica	Tupelo	50	25	Y	Y	-	-	Y	-	N	DT	Prefers moist, acid well- drained soil but tolerates poor drainage. Good fall color.

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Oenothera caespitosa	Evening Primrose	0.3	-	Y	N	N	-	Y	Y	Y	F	Biennial or perennial. Requires summer irrigation. Clusters of white flowers in late spring and early summer. Reseeds profusely.
Oenothera macrocarpa	Ozark Sundrops	0.5	2	Y	Y	N	-	Y	-	-	P	Partial shade in hot climates.
Osteospermum	Freeway Daisy, Creeping African Daisy	1	4	Y	N	N	-	Y	Y	N	P	Mod. to reg. water. Tolerates drought. Looks better with good soil & water.
Photinia X fraseri	Hybrid Photinia	15	15	Y	N	N	-	Y	-	N	ES	Susceptible to fireblight.
Physocarpus capitatus	Ninebark	6	-	N	Y	Y	-	Y	-	Y	S	Deciduous shrub. Requires summer irrigation. Clusters of white flowers in spring.
Platanus racemosa	California Sycamore	75	-	Y	N	N	Y	Y	-	Y	T	Deciduous tree. Requires summer irrigation. Subject to anthracnose.
Potentilla glandulosa	Sticky Cinquefoil	2	-	Y	N	N	-	Y	-	Y	F	Perennial. Requires summer irrigation. White to yellow flowers in spring.
prunus ilicifolia	Hollyleaf Cherry	25	-	Y	Y	N	-	-	Y	Y	S	Evergreen shrub. Occasional summer irrigation to maintain appearance. Purple/red berries in summer.
Punica granatum	Pomegranate	10	10	Y	-	-	-	Y	Y	Y	D S/T	n/a
Pycnanthemum californicum	Mountain Mint	1.5	-	Y	Y	N	-	Y	-	Y	F	Perennial. Requires summer irrigation. White flowers in spring.
Quercus ilex	Holly Oak	60	60	Y	N	N	-	Y	Y	N	ET	Good drainage needed.
Quercus palustris	Pin or Swamp Oak	50-80	40	Y	-	-	-	Y	-	-	DT	Dead foliage hangs on in winter.
Ribes aureum	Golden Currant	9	-	Y	Y	N	-	Y	-	Y	S	Deciduous shrub. Requires summer irrigation. Clusters of yellow flowers in spring. Host to white pine blister rust.
Ribes nevadense	Pink Sierra Currant	6	-	N	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	S	Deciduous shrub. Requires summer irrigation. Clusters of pink flowers in spring. Host to white pine blister rust.
Ribes sanguineum	Red-flowering Currant	10	-	N	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	S	Deciduous shrub. Requires summer irrigation. Clusters of red, pink or white flowers in spring. Host to white pine blister rust.
Salix exigua	Narrowleaf Willow	20	-	Y	N	N	Y	Y	-	Y	S	Deciduous shrub. Requires summer irrigation. Yellow fall foliage.
Salix goodingii	San Joaquin Willow	90	-	Y	N	N	Y	Y	-	Y	T	Deciduous tree. Requires summer irrigation. Yellow fall foliage.
Salix goodingii	San Joaquin Willow	90	-	Y	N	N	Y	Y	-	Y	T	Deciduous tree. Requires summer irrigation. Yellow fall foliage.
Salix lucida ssp. Lasiantra	Shining Willow	30	-	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-	Y	T	Deciduous tree. Requires summer irrigation. Yellow fall foliage.
Sambucus mexicana	Blue Elderberry	20	-	Y	Y	N	-	Y	-	Y	S	Deciduous shrub. Recommend summer irrigation to maintain appearance. Clusters of white flowers in spring, followed by blue berries in summer.
Shepherdia argentea	Silver Buffalo Berry	18	-	Y	N	N	-	Y	Y	Y	S	Deciduous shrub. Recommend summer irrigation to maintain appearance.
Sisyrinchium bellum	Blue-eyed Grass	1	-	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	F	Evergreen perennial. Recommend summer irrigation to maintain appearance. Blue flowers in spring.
Syringa vulgaris	Common Lilac	20	20	N	Y	N	-	Y	Y	N	DS	Needs <u>well-drained soil</u> . Needs winter chill for blooms.
Thuja orientalis	Shrub Arborvitae	25	15	N	Y	N	-	Y	Y	N	ES	Give <u>good drainage</u> . Protect from reflected heat. Watch for spider mites.
Vaccinium ovatum	California Huckleberry	8	-	N	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	S	Evergreen shrub. Requires acid soil and summer irrigation. Produces huckleberries.
Vitis californica	California Grape	15	-	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	-	Y	V	Deciduous vine. Occasional summer irrigation. Colorful fall foliage.
Washingtonia filifera	California Fan Palm	60	-	Y	N	N	-	Y	-	Y	T	Evergreen tree. Recommend some summer irrigation to maintain appearance.
Woodwardia fimbriata	Giant Chain Fern	6	-	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	F	Evergreen fern. Recommend summer irrigation to maintain appearance.
Xylosma congestum	Xylosma	10	10	Y	Y	N	-	Y	-	N	E/D S	n/a
Zantedeschia aethiopica	Common Calla	4	1	N	Y	N	-	Y	-	N	P	Soil tolerant and thrives in moist, even boggy soil all year. In hot climates, grows in light shade.
Zelkova serrata	Japanese Zelkova	60	60	Y	Y	-	-	Y	-	N	DT	Takes wide range of soils. Fairly tolerant of drought, wind.