



Georgia Coastal Plain Native Plants For Rain Gardens

Introduction

A rain garden is a natural landscaped depression that functions as a miniature wetland. Aside from providing beauty and natural diversity, these miniature wetlands also perform a vital landscape function. Rain gardens capture and receive stormwater runoff from impervious (hard) surfaces such as roofs, driveways, and sidewalks. The rain garden holds the water on the landscape so that the densely rooted native plants in the garden capture, filter, store and slowly release stormwater into the ground. The plants, mulch, and soil in a rain garden combine natural physical, biological, and chemical processes to remove pollutants from the stormwater runoff. The pollutants they filter out include fertilizer, pesticides, oil, heavy metals and other chemicals. These miniature wetlands also trap and use nutrients such as nitrates and phosphates that otherwise would run off and pollute nearby streams, lakes, and other waterways. Rain gardens also reduce peak storm flows, and thus help prevent stream bank erosion and lower the risk for local flooding. In addition, by collecting and using rainwater that would otherwise run off yards, rain gardens provide an attractive landscape that requires less watering.

As a tiny wetland, your rain garden will reduce drainage and flooding problems, keep pollutants out of your local stormwater system, and bring beauty and wildlife to your landscape. In addition, unless you design your rain garden to hold water, its densely rooted plants will absorb water, preventing the formation of mosquito-friendly puddles. In fact, rain gardens attract mosquito-hungry dragonflies!

Native plants included in this CoastScapes rain garden list range from tolerant of flooding to tolerant of drought, matching varying moisture zones of a rain garden. For more information regarding Georgia's coastal plain native plants, green infrastructure stormwater best management practices, or to utilize the CoastScapes coastal plains native plant search engine, go to www.coastscapes.org.

Plant Choice Considerations

Although the plants provided in the list below may be native to the coastal plain region of Georgia, individual plants may not grow everywhere in the region. In addition, the characteristics of any site will typically vary from place to place and some plants may do better than others at various places within a site. Putting plants in the right places is the key to ensuring they survive and remain healthy in your landscape. When selecting plants from this list, remember that many factors determine the suitability of a plant for a particular location. Consider light requirements, local climate, soil type, moisture, adaptability, hardiness, heat tolerance, and other factors. All plants listed are suited to the USDA Hardiness Zone 8. Please check to see if your zone falls within the 8a or 8b hardiness zone and then choose plants accordingly. Choose native plants that match and thrive under the conditions in your landscape and you will have a beautiful CoastScapes landscape! You will reduce the need for water, fertilizers, pesticides, and pruning while providing valuable wildlife habitat.

Although these native plants have evolved to prosper in the local conditions, new plantings will require regular watering before they become established. Root establishment can take from months to one to several years, depending on the original size of the plant.

Georgia Coastal Plain Native Plants For Rain Gardens

Ferns

<i>Adiantum capillaris-veneris</i>	common maidenhair
<i>Athyrium filix-femina ssp. asplenoïdes</i>	asplenium ladyfern
<i>Dryopteris ludoviciana</i>	southern woodfern
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	cinnamon fern (needs water in severe dry conditions)
<i>Onocela sensibilis</i>	sensitive fern
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	royal fern (needs water in severe dry conditions)
<i>Thelypteris palustris var. pubescens</i>	eastern marsh fern
<i>Woodwardia areolata</i>	netted chainfern

Grasses and Sedges

<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	big bluestem
<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>	broomsedge bluestem
<i>Carex glaucescens</i>	southern waxy sedge
<i>Carex lurida</i>	shallow sedge
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	Indian woodoats
<i>Eleocharis quadrangulata</i>	squarestem spikerush
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia wildrye
<i>Juncus effuses</i>	common rush
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	hairawn muhly
<i>Muhlenbergia filipes</i>	gulf hairawn muhly
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	switchgrass
<i>Rhynchospora colorata</i>	starrush whitetop
<i>Rhynchospora latifolia</i>	sandswamp whitetop
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	little bluestem
<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	softstem bulrush
<i>Sorghastrum elliotti</i>	slender Indiangrass
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	indiangrass

<i>Spartina bakeri</i>	sand cordgrass
<i>Spartina patens</i>	saltmeadow cordgrass
<i>Tridens flavus</i>	purpletop tridens
<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	eastern gamagrass

Perennials

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	common yarrow
<i>Acorus calamus</i>	calamus
<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	eastern blue star (may need water during severe drought conditions)
<i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>	woman's tobacco
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	red columbine
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack in the pulpit
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	swamp milkweed (may need water during severe drought conditions)
<i>Asclepias longifolia</i>	longleaf milkweed
<i>Asclepias perennis</i>	aquatic milkweed
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	butterfly milkweed
<i>Baptisia alba</i>	white false indigo
<i>Baptisia tinctoria</i>	horseflyweed
<i>Boltonia asteroides</i>	white doll's daisy
<i>Canna flaccida</i>	bandanna of the Everglades
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	white turtlehead (may need water during severe drought conditions)
<i>Clematis crispa</i>	swamp leather flower
<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	blue mistflower
<i>Coreopsis gladiata</i>	coastal plain tickseed
<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i>	largeflower tickseed
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	lanceleaf tickseed, lanceleaf coreopsis
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	whorled tickseed
<i>Crinum americanum</i>	seven sisters
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	eastern purple coneflower
<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>	scouringrush horsetail
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	button eryngo
<i>Eupatoriadelphus fistulosus</i>	trumpetweed (may need water during severe drought conditions)

<i>Eupatorium hyssopifolium</i>	hyssopleaf thoroughwort
<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	sweetscented joe pye weed
<i>Gaillardia aestivalis</i>	lanceleaf blanketflower
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	firewheel
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	spotted geranium, wild geranium, cranesbill
<i>Glandularia canadensis</i>	rose mock vervain
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	common sneezeweed
<i>Helenium pinnatifidum</i>	southern sneezeweed
<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	swamp sunflower (may need water during severe drought conditions)
<i>Helianthus simulans</i>	muck sunflower
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	smooth oxeye
<i>Hexastylis arifolia</i>	littlebrownjug
<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>	scarlet rosemallow
<i>Hibiscus laevis</i>	halberdleaf rosemallow
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	swamp rose mallow, swamp mallow, swamp hibiscus (may need water during severe drought conditions)
<i>Hymenocallis floridana</i>	Florida spiderlily
<i>Hypoxis hirsuta</i>	common goldstar
<i>Hypoxis juncea</i>	fringed yellow star-grasses
<i>Ipomopsis rubra</i>	standing-cypress
<i>Iris fulva</i>	copper iris
<i>Iris hexagona</i>	Dixie iris
<i>Iris virginica</i>	Virginia iris
<i>Kosteletzkya virginica</i>	Virginia saltmarsh mallow, seashore mallow (may need water in severe dry conditions)
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	spiked blazing star, gayfeather (tolerates brief flooding)
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	cardinal flower (needs water in severe dry conditions)
<i>Lysimachia ciliata</i>	fringed loosestrife
<i>Lysimachia lanceolata</i>	lanceleaf loosestrife
<i>Malvastrum arboreus</i>	wax mallow
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	spotted beebalm, dotted horsemint

<i>Oenothera speciosa</i>	pinkladies
<i>Oligoneuron rigidum</i> v. <i>glabatum</i>	stiff goldenrod
<i>Penstemon australis</i>	Eustis Lake beardtongue
<i>Penstemon laevigatus</i>	eastern smooth beardtongue
<i>Phlox carolina</i>	thickleaf phlox
<i>Phlox nivalis</i>	trailing phlox
<i>Physostegia angustifolia</i>	narrowleaf false dragonhead
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	obedient plant
<i>Pityopsis graminifolia</i>	narrowleaf silkgrass
<i>Pycnanthemum flexuosum</i>	Appalachian mountainmint
<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	narrowleaf mountainmint
<i>Rhexia mariana</i>	Maryland meadowbeauty
<i>Rhexia virginica</i>	handsome Harry
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	orange coneflower
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	blackeyed susan
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	cutleaf coneflower (needs water in severe dry conditions)
<i>Ruellia caroliniensis</i>	Carolina wild petunia
<i>Sagittaria graminea</i>	grassy arrowhead
<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	lyreleaf sage
<i>Saururus cernuus</i>	lizard's tail
<i>Scutellaria integrifolia</i>	helmet flower
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	narrowleaf blue-eyed grass
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	gray goldenrod
<i>Solidago odora</i>	sweet goldenrod
<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	rough-leaved goldenrod (needs water in severe dry conditions)
<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	seaside goldenrod
<i>Stokesia laevis</i>	Stoke's aster (tolerates brief flooding)
<i>Vernonia gigantea</i>	giant ironweed
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	New York ironweed (needs water in severe dry conditions)
<i>Viola</i> spp. (native)	violets (see master Coast Scapes list)
<i>Xanthorhiza simplicissima</i>	yellowroot
<i>Zephyranthes atamasca</i>	Atamasco lily
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	golden aster

Shrubs

<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	red buckeye
<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	bottlebrush buckeye
<i>Agarista populifolia</i>	Florida hobblebush
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	desert false indigo
<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	devil's walkingstick
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	eastern baccharis, groundsel tree, salt myrtle
<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	American beautyberry (tolerate brief flooding)
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	eastern sweetshrub, Carolina allspice (tolerate brief flooding)
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	common buttonbush (tolerates brief flooding, but depending on site may need water during severe drought conditions)
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	white fringetree
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	coastal sweetpepperbush, summersweet clethra (tolerate brief flooding)
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	silky dogwood, red willow
<i>Cornus foemina</i>	stiff dogwood
<i>Cornus florida</i>	flowering dogwood
<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>	swamp titi
<i>Eubotrys racemosa</i>	swamp doghobble
<i>Eunonymus americanus</i>	bursting-heart, American strawberry bush, hearts-a-bustin'
<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i> **	dwarf witchalder**
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	oakleaf hydrangea
<i>Hypericum fasciculatum</i>	peelbark St. Johnswort

**** PLEASE NOTE!!** *Fothergilla gardenii* is a protected plant in Georgia. Before choosing this shrub for planting, please take great care to assure that your conditions are appropriate for the necessary requirements and needs of this rare and protected plant.

<i>Ilex decidua</i>	possumhaw
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	inkberry, gallberry (tolerate brief flooding)
<i>Ilex myrtifolia</i>	myrtle dahoon
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	common winterberry (may need water during severe drought conditions)
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	yaupon holly
<i>Illicium floridanum**</i>	Florida anisetree**
<i>Illicium parviflorum</i>	yellow anisetree
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia sweetspire, Virginia willow (may need water during severe drought conditions)
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	mountain laurel
<i>Leucothoe axillaris</i>	coastal dobhobble
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	northern spicebush
<i>Lyonia lucida</i>	fetterbush lyonia
<i>Morella caroliniensis</i>	southern bayberry
<i>Morella cerifera</i>	wax myrtle (evergreen) (synonym: <i>Myrica cerifera</i>)
<i>Philadelphus inodorus</i>	scentless mock orange
<i>Photonia pyrifolia</i>	red chokeberry (synonym: <i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>)
<i>Rhapidophyllum hystrix</i>	needle palm
<i>Rhododendron arborescens</i>	smooth azalea
<i>Rhododendron austrinum</i>	orange azalea
<i>Rhododendron canescens</i>	mountain azalea
<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	swamp azalea
<i>Rhus copallinum</i>	winged sumac
<i>Rosa carolina</i>	Carolina rose
<i>Rosa palustris</i>	swamp rose (tolerates brief to extended flooding)
<i>Sabal minor</i>	dwarf palmetto (may need water during severe drought conditions)

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Sambucus nigra spp. *canadensis*

Serenoa repens

Styrax americanus

Vaccinium arboreum

Vaccinium corymbosum

Vaccinium elliotii

Viburnum dentatum

Viburnum nudum

Viburnum obovatum

Viburnum ruficolum

American black elderberry

saw palmetto

American snowbell

farkleberry

highbush blueberry

Elliott's blueberry

southern arrowwood

possumhaw, swampshaw (may need water during severe drought conditions)

small-leaf arrowwood

rusty blackhaw

Trees (Large)

Acer barbatum

southern sugar maple

(synonym: *Acer saccharum* sub. *floridanum*)

Acer rubrum

red maple (tolerate brief flooding)

Betula nigra

river birch

Catalpa bignonioides

southern catalpa

Celtis laevigata

sugarberry

Celtis occidentalis

common hackberry

Chamaecyparis thyoides

Atlantic white cedar

Diospyros virginiana

common persimmon

Fraxinus pennsylvanica

green ash (needs water in severe drought conditions)

Ilex opaca

American holly

Juniperus silicicola

southern redcedar

Juniperus virginiana

eastern red cedar

Liquidambar styraciflua

sweetgum

Liriodendron tulipifera

tuliptree

Magnolia grandiflora

southern magnolia

Magnolia virginiana

sweetbay, sweetbay magnolia (needs water in severe drought conditions)

Nyssa aquatica

water tupelo

Nyssa sylvatica

blackgum, black tupelo (tolerate brief flooding)

<i>Pinus elliotti</i>	slash pine
<i>Pinus glabra</i>	spruce pine
<i>Pinus palustris</i>	longleaf pine
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	loblolly pine
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	American sycamore
<i>Quercus alba</i>	white oak
<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	laurel oak (needs water in severe drought conditions)
<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	overcup oak
<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	swamp chestnut oak
<i>Quercus nigra</i>	water oak
<i>Quercus phellos</i>	willow oak
<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	Shumard's oak
<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	live oak
<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	cabbage palm
<i>Salix nigra</i>	black willow (needs water in severe drought conditions)
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	sassafras
<i>Taxodium ascendens</i>	pond cypress
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	bald cypress
<i>Ulmus alata</i>	winged elm
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American elm

Trees (Small)

<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	red buckeye
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	common serviceberry
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Canadian serviceberry, shadblow serviceberry, Juneberry
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	pawpaw
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	American hornbeam, ironwood, musclewood
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	eastern redbud
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	white fringetree, grey beard, old man's beard (tolerate brief flooding)
<i>Cornus florida</i>	flowering dogwood

<i>Cornus foemina</i>	stiff dogwood
<i>Crataegus aestivalis</i>	mayhaw, may hawthorn, green hawthorn
<i>Crataegus marshallii</i>	parsley hawthorn
<i>Crataegus spathulata</i>	little hawthorn
<i>Crataegus viridis</i>	green hawthorn
<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>	swamp titi
<i>Halesia diptera</i>	two-wing silverbell
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	American witchhazel
<i>Ilex cassine</i>	dahoon holly
<i>Ilex decidua</i>	possumhaw, deciduous holly, winterberry (needs water in severe drought conditions)
<i>Osmanthus americanus</i>	devilwood
<i>Persea borbonia</i>	redbay
<i>Prunus americana</i>	American plum
<i>Styrax americanus</i>	American snowbell
<i>Symplocos tinctoria</i>	common sweetleaf

Vines

<i>Ampelaster carolinianus</i>	climbing aster
<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>	peppervine
<i>Apios americana</i>	groundnut
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>	crossvine
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	trumpet creeper
<i>Decumaria barbara</i>	woodvamp
<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	evening trumpetflower
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	trumpet honeysuckle
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia creeper
<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	purple passionflower
<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>	muscadine
<i>Wisteria frutescens</i>	American wisteria

Ground Cover

Asarum canadense

Mitchella repens

Canadian wildginger

partridgeberry