

RUTGERS

THE STATE UNIVERSITY
OF NEW JERSEY

Rain Garden Plant Selection



Water Resources Program

RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station



Rain Garden Native Plants



Bald Cypress



Blue Flag

Iris



Cardinal

Flower

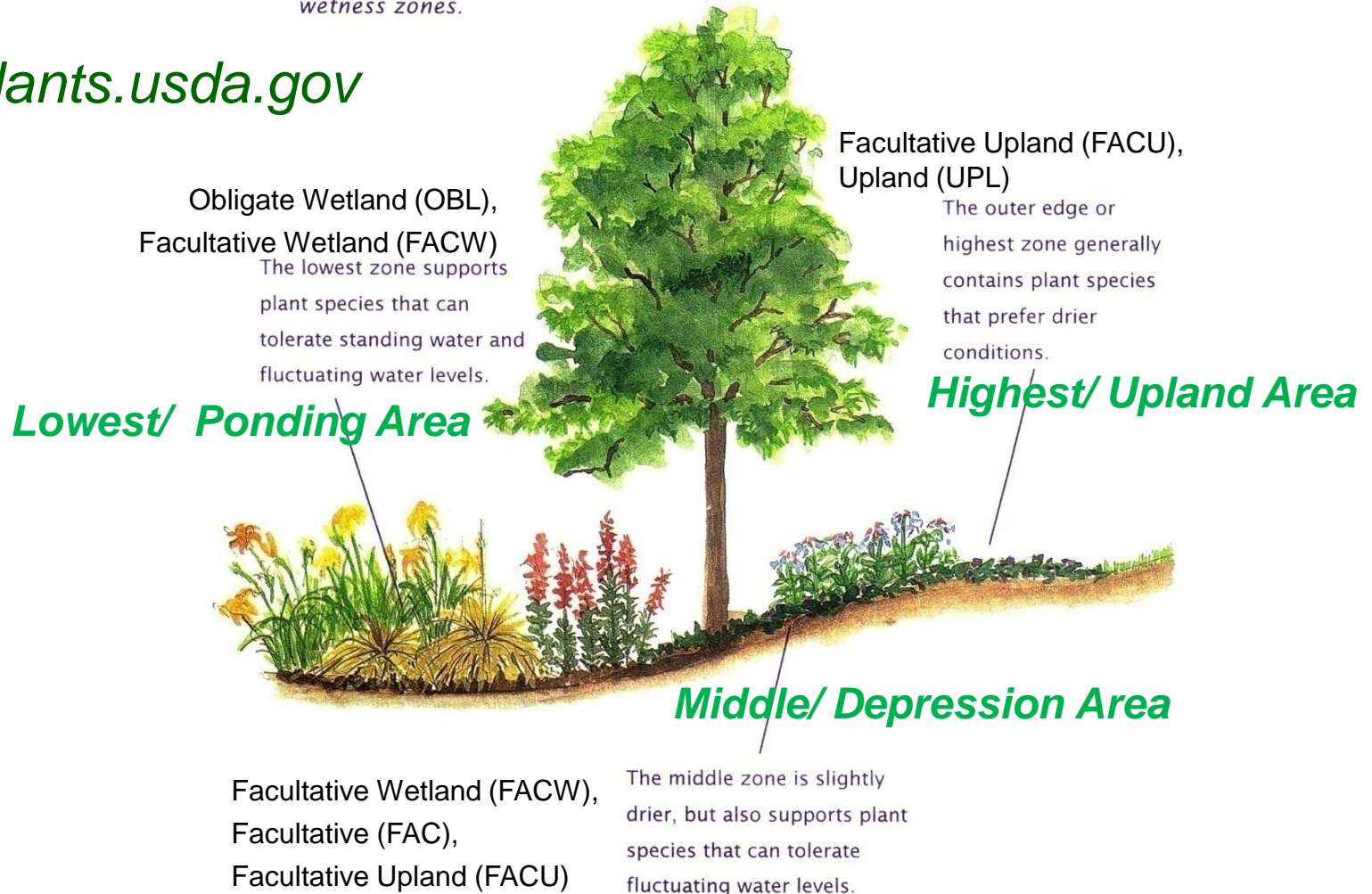
“Ornamental” Plants for the Rain Garden

- **Check references for tolerance of wet and dry conditions.**
- **Consider using cultivars of native plants.**
- **Place in the appropriate area of the rain garden.**

Types of Plants

Your Rain Garden is composed of woody plants (trees and shrubs) and herbaceous species (flowers, grasses, and ground covers) planted in three wetness zones.

<http://plants.usda.gov>



Native Plants for the Ponding Area

National Wetland Indicators

- **Obligate Wetland**
nearly always occur in
wetlands under natural
conditions



Blue Flag Iris



Swamp Rose Mallow

Trees and Shrubs for the Ponding Area

- **River Birch**
- **Bald Cypress**
- **Arborvitae**
 - Needs moisture, but good drainage
- **Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle**
 - Diervilla lonicera
- **Spice Bush**
 - Lindera benzoin



Bald Cypress

Perennials and Ornamental Grasses for the Ponding Area

- Maiden Hair Fern
- Lady Fern
- Karl Foerster's Feather Reed Grass
- Copper Iris
 - *Iris fulva*
 - Note some Iris do not do well in wet conditions, check your references!
- Liatris
 - 'Meadow Blazing Star'
 - 'Prairie Blazing Star'
 - Dense Blazing Star'



Liatris

Native Plants for the Ponding or Depression Area

- **Facultative Wetland**
 - Plants that usually occur in wetlands (67 - 99% of the time) but are occasionally found in non-wetlands.
- **Examples: Ironweed, Red Osier Dogwood, Pussy Willow**



New York Ironweed



Pussy Willow



Red Osier Dogwood

Native Plants for the Ponding or Depression Area

National Wetland Indicators

- **Facultative**
 - **Plants that are likely to occur in wetlands and non-wetlands and are found in wetlands 34 – 66% of the time.**
- **Examples**
 - **Little Bluestem, Obedient Plant, Sweet Pepper Bush or Summersweet**

Native Plants for the Ponding or Depression Area



Little Bluestem



*Obedient
Plant*



Sweet Pepper Bush or Summersweet

Trees and Shrubs for the Depression Area

- **Creeping Juniper**
- **Shrub Rose Cultivars**
- **Spiraea**
 - ‘Anthony Waterer’
- **Snowberry or Coral Berry**
 - Symphoricarpos ‘Hancock’
- **Sweet Bay Magnolia**
 - Magnolia virginiana



Creeping Juniper



Sweet Bay Magnolia

Perennials for the Depression Area

- Moonshine Yarrow
- Columbine
- Asters
 - 'Purple Dome'
 - 'Aromatic'
 - 'Purple Daisy'
- Coreopsis
 - Threadleaf-Tickseed, *Coreopsis verticillata*
- Daylillies
- Hostas



Coreopsis

Plants for the Berm Area

National Wetland Indicator

- **Facultative Upland**
 - **Plants that usually occur in non-wetlands (from 67-99% of the time), but are occasionally found in wetlands (from 1 to 33%) of the time.**
- **Examples**
 - **False Blue Indigo, Blackhaw Viburnum, Eastern Redbud**

Plants for the Depression or Berm Area



False Blue Indigo

Eastern Redbud



Blackhaw Viburnum

Native Plants for the Berm Area

National Wetland Indicators

- **Upland**
 - Plants that almost always (more than 99%) of the time occur in non-wetlands under natural conditions
- **Examples**
 - Monarda, Rudbeckia, Panicum



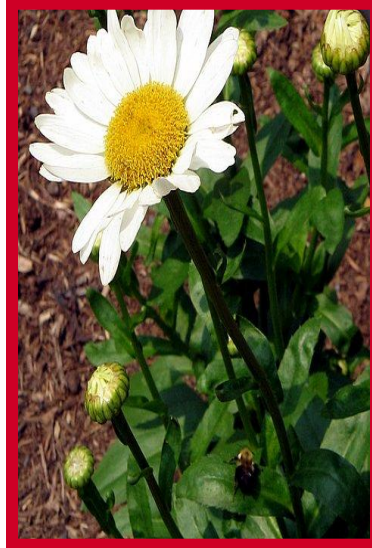
Rudbeckia



Monarda

“Ornamentals” for the Berm Area

- **Witch Hazels**
 - Corylus
- **Gaillardia grandiflora**
- **Bleeding Heart**
 - Dicentra spectabilis
- **Russian Sage**
 - Perovskia atriplicifolia
- **Peony**
- **Shasta Daisy**



Shasta Daisy

Bleeding Heart



Things to consider when designing a rain garden

- Mature size of plants
- Vehicle traffic
- Seasonal color
- Attracting beneficials or butterflies



Where to Buy Native Plants

- Refer to the New Jersey Native Plant Society Rain Garden Manual
- <http://www.npsnj.org>



Enjoy Designing your Rain Garden!

Photo Credits

- Liatris: www.botany.wisc.edu/images/liatris_lg.jpg
- Creeping Juniper:
www.hort.uconn.edu/.../vermont/11/14/14.jpg
- Sweet Bay Magnolia: www.nycgovparks.org
www.washington.edu/.../graphics/74swmag.jpg
- Coreopsis:
www.hsl.unc.edu/.../Images/coreopsis063006.JPG
- Bleeding Heart: www.nycgovparks.org

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- New York Ironweed Photo: Robert H. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA SCS. 1991. *Southern wetland flora: Field office guide to plant species*. South National Technical Center, Fort Worth.
- Redosier Dogwood: R.A. Howard @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database
- Pussy Willow: Robert H. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA SCS. 1989. *Midwest wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant species*. Midwest National Technical Center, Lincoln.

Photo Credits

- Little Bluestem: James H. Miller @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Miller, J.H. and K.V. Miller. 2005. *Forest plants of the southeast and their wildlife uses*. University of Georgia Press, Athens.
- Obedient Plant: Bill Summers @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA SCS. 1989. *Midwest wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant species*. Midwest National Technical Center, Lincoln

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- Sweet Pepperbush: Ted Bodner @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Miller, J.H. and K.V. Miller. 2005. *Forest plants of the southeast and their wildlife uses*. University of Georgia Press, Athens.
- Baptisia: G.A. Cooper @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database www.nycgovparks.org
- Redbud: Jeff McMillian @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database
- Blackhaw Viburnum: Robert H. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA SCS. 1989. *Midwest wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant species*. Midwest National Technical Center, Lincoln.