

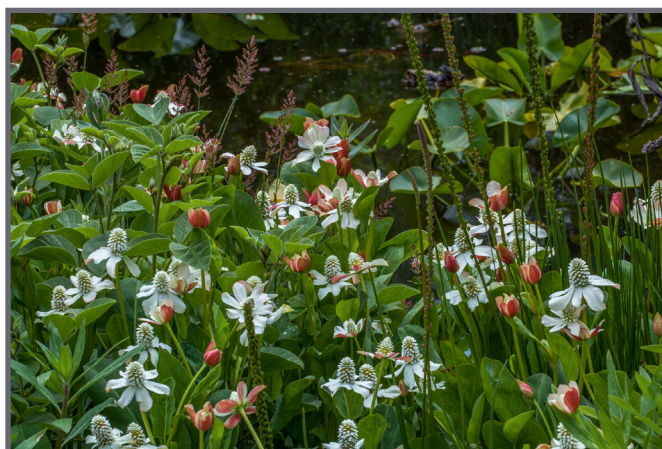
# Rain Garden Plants

Plants for a rain garden are adapted to both wet and dry conditions. At the bottom of the basin, use plants that can sit in water for several days such as Rushes, Sedges and Yerba Mansa. On the sides and around the perimeter berms, you can place flowering plants that don't mind having their roots in wet soil temporarily such as Columbine or Ground Morning Glory. Plants listed below indicate where best to place them in your rain garden.

## Yerba Mansa *Anemopsis californica*

*Anemopsis californica* (Yerba Mansa), perennial, to 1 foot tall and spreading slowly by rhizomes to form large colonies, with large, waxy, aromatic, gray-green, basal leaves and cone-shaped clusters of tiny flowers surrounded by large, white bracts in spring and summer. Native to damp or seasonally wet places from northern California east to Kansas and south to Texas and northern Mexico. Sun to light shade, most soils, including poorly drained and saline. Dormant from late summer to early spring. Cut back hard in winter to renew. Sunset: 4-24

Plant in the bottom of the rain garden to create a thick mat.



## Golden Columbine *Aquilegia chrysantha*

*Aquilegia chrysantha* (Golden Columbine), perennial, 2-3 feet tall and 1-2 feet wide, with leaves divided into lobed, bright green leaflets and large, fragrant, yellow flowers well above the leaves in late spring. Native to shaded, damp places in desert mountains from Arizona to western Texas and south to northern Mexico. Self-sows. Cool sun to part shade, well-drained soils. Can be cut back hard to renew.

Sunset: 1-24

Plant along the top rim of the rain garden.

## Berkeley Sedge *Carex divulsa*

*Carex divulsa* (European gray sedge), perennial, 1-2 feet tall and wide, clump-forming, with glossy, dark green, grasslike, arching leaves and small, inconspicuous, green flowers from late winter through spring that age to brown. Native from Europe and North Africa east to central Asia. Self-sows freely and should not be planted near wildlands. Mow before seed set to contain spread. Cool sun to part shade, most soils. Adaptable. May be offered as Berkeley sedge or as *C. tumulicola*, which is a smaller, less vigorous plant. Sunset: 2b-9, 11-24

Plant in the bottom of the rain garden.





# Rain Garden Plants



## Texas Sedge *Carex texensis*

*Carex texensis* (Texas Sedge), perennial, clumping 4-6 inches tall and spreading slowly by rhizomes to form a rough turf. Fine-textured, grasslike, green leaves and tiny, green flowers in summer that age to brown. Native to dry meadows and moist, sandy woodlands from New York to Georgia and west to Oklahoma and Texas. Cool sun to part shade, most soils, including periodically flooded.

Sunset: 7-9,11-24

Plant in either the bottom or sides of the rain garden.

## Cape Rush

*Chondropetalum tectorum* `El Campo`

*Chondropetalum tectorum* (Cape Rush), perennial from rhizomes, 3-4 feet tall and wide, with stiff, narrow, grass-like stems, small, brownish, papery bracts at nodes along the stems, and clusters of tiny, dark brown flowers at stem ends. Initially upright and then relaxing on all sides to create a graceful mound. New stems arise from the center. Native to Western Cape and Eastern Cape provinces, South Africa, near the coast and often in marshes or seeps. Sun to light shade, most soils. May be offered as *Elegia*.

Sunset: 8-9,14-24

Plant in the bottom of the rain garden.



## Ground Morning Glory *Convolvulus mauritanicus*

*Convolvulus mauritanicus* (Ground Morning Glory), perennial, less than 1 foot tall and 2-3 feet wide, with rounded to oval, grayish green leaves and lavender-blue flowers from spring to fall. Native to coastal Morocco and Algeria. Cascades over walls. Sun to light shade, most well-drained soils. Cut back in late winter to renew. May be offered as *C. sabatius*.

Sunset: 4-9,12-24

Plant on the sides and the top rim of the rain garden.





# Rain Garden Plants

## Spreading Rush *Juncus patens* 'Elk Blue'

*Juncus patens* and cultivars (California Gray Rush), grass-like plant, to 2 feet tall and wide, with stiffly upright, gray-green to bluish green, leafless stems and tiny, rusty brown flowers partially hidden among the stems in spring and summer. Native to moist or seasonally moist coastal locations from southern Washington to northern Baja California. 'Elk Blue', from coastal northern California, has especially narrow and especially blue stems. Can grow in shallow water. Spreads by rhizomes in moist or wet locations. Sun to shade, most soils. Dormant in summer if grown dry.

Sunset: 4-9,14-24

Plant in the bottom of the rain garden.



## Pine Muhly *Muhlenbergia dubia*

*Muhlenbergia dubia* (Pine Muhly), warm-season bunchgrass, 1-2 feet tall and 2 feet wide, with fine-textured, bright green leaves and tall plumes of purple-tinged, creamy white flowers in late summer and fall. Self-sows but not aggressively. Native to desert mountains from Arizona to southwestern Texas and northern Mexico. Sun to light shade, fast drainage, good air circulation.

Sunset: 3b,7-24

Plant on sides or top rim of rain garden.

## Lindheimer's Muhly *Muhlenbergia lindheimeri* 'Autumn Glow'

*Muhlenbergia lindheimeri* 'Autumn Glow', Lindheimer muhly, warm-season bunchgrass, upright to 3-4 feet tall and wide, with fine-textured, medium green to bluish gray leaves and 5- to 6-foot stems with pale yellow, late-summer flowers that age to tan. Self-sows but not aggressively. Species is native to Texas and northern Mexico and has creamy white flowers that age to silvery gray. Sun to light shade, most soils, good air circulation. Accepts periodic flooding.

Sunset: 6-24

Plant on bottom or on sides of rain garden.



# Rain Garden Plants



## Zephyrlily

*Zephyranthes candida*

*Zephyranthes candida* (Zephyr Lily), perennial from bulb, 1 foot tall and wide, spreading by offsets to form dense colonies, with narrow, upright, rushlike, glossy green leaves and tubular, white flowers with golden yellow stamens in late summer and fall.

Native to seasonal wetlands and marshes from northeastern Argentina and Paraguay to southern Brazil and Uruguay. Sun to part shade, humusy, well-drained soils.

Sunset: 4-9,12-24

Plant in the bottom or on the sides of the rain garden.