

# CARING FOR THE RETRO FITNESS RAIN GARDEN



## Aster "New York"

*Aster novae-belgii*

**SOIL:** medium

**HEIGHT:** 1-2'

**SPREAD:** 1-2'

**MAINTENANCE:** Plants may die out in the center if they are not divided periodically. Irrigate during drought and limit overcrowding. Prune back to 6" early in the season to control height and promote stronger stems. Cutting should be curtailed by the end of June so that flowers have time to develop. Prune again after flowering if self-seeding is a problem or if foliage is bedraggled.



## Black-eyed Susan

*Rudbeckia hirta*

**SOIL:** medium

**HEIGHT:** 1-3'

**SPREAD:** 2-3'

**MAINTENANCE:** Deadhead spent flowers to encourage additional bloom and/or to prevent any unwanted self-seeding. Susceptible to powdery mildew. Watch for slugs and snails on young plants. Can self-seed freely.



## Broom sedge

*Carex scoparia*

**SOIL:** wet-moist

**HEIGHT:** 1-2'

**SPREAD:** 1-2'

**MAINTENANCE:** Will decline if aggressively shaded by taller companions. Pest resistant.



## Gallberry holly

*Ilex glabra*

**SOIL:** medium-wet

**HEIGHT:** 5-8'

**SPREAD:** 5-8'

**MAINTENANCE:** Prune to shape in early spring just before new growth begins. Plants generally need minimal pruning unless used as a hedge. Remove root suckers regularly if colonial spread is not desired. Leaf spot is an occasional problem. Spider mites may appear, especially in dry conditions. Susceptible to chlorosis (yellowing of leaves) in high pH (alkaline) soils.



## Red switchgrass

*Panicum virgatum*

**SOIL:** moist-dry

**HEIGHT:** 2-3'

**SPREAD:** 2'

**MAINTENANCE:** Tends to flop in rich soils. Will grow in part shade, but begins to lose its columnar form in too much shade, growing more openly and possibly falling over. Grows primarily in clumps, but may naturalize by rhizomes as well as self-seeding to form sizable colonies. Cut back clumps to the ground in late winter to early spring.



## Ruby spice summer sweet

*Clethra alnifolia*

**SOIL:** medium-wet

**HEIGHT:** 3-8'

**SPREAD:** 4-6'

**MAINTENANCE:** Promptly remove root suckers unless naturalized look is desired. Propagate by cuttings. Prune if needed in late winter. Spider mites may be a concern in dry conditions.