

# CARING FOR THE ANN STREET RAIN GARDEN



## Black chokeberry

*Aronia melanocarpa*

**SOIL:** moist-dry

**HEIGHT:** 3-6'

**SPREAD:** 6-10'

**MAINTENANCE:** Remove root suckers to prevent colonial spread. Some susceptibility to leaf spots and twig/fruit blight.



## Blue flag iris

*Iris versicolor*

**SOIL:** wet

**HEIGHT:** 2-3'

**SPREAD:** 2-3'

**MAINTENANCE:** Propagate by division after bloom. Wear gloves when dividing the rhizomes (poisonous). After fall frost, plant leaves may be trimmed back to about 1" above the crown. Susceptible to a number of insect pests including iris borer, iris thrips, and aphids. Potential disease problems include various rots (rhizome rot, crown rot, bacterial soft rot) leaf spot, and leaf/blossom blight.



## Cardinal flower

*Lobelia cardinalis*

**SOIL:** wet

**HEIGHT:** 3-4'

**SPREAD:** 2-3'

**MAINTENANCE:** Needs constant moisture. Root mulch should be applied in cold winter climates.



## 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.



## Golden Alexander

*Zizia aurea*

**SOIL:** medium

**HEIGHT:** 1-3'

**SPREAD:** 1-2'

**MAINTENANCE:** No serious insect or disease problems. Foliage tends to depreciate as the summer progresses. In ideal conditions can reseed heavily.



## Joe Pye Weed

*Eutrochium purpureum*

**SOIL:** moist

**HEIGHT:** 5-6'

**SPREAD:** 3-4'

**MAINTENANCE:** Cut plants to the ground in late winter. Best propagated by stem cuttings. Leaves may scorch if soils are allowed to dry out. Powdery mildew and rust may occur.



## New York Ironweed

*Vernonia noveboracensis*

**SOIL:** moist

**HEIGHT:** 4-7'

**SPREAD:** 2-4'

**MAINTENANCE:** Remove flower heads before seed develops to avoid unwanted self-seeding. Overall plant height may be reduced by cutting back stems nearly to the ground in late spring.



## 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.

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## Shallow Sedge

*Carex lurida*

**SOIL:** medium-wet

**HEIGHT:** 1-3'

**SPREAD:** 1-2'

**MAINTENANCE:** May require supplemental watering if planted in dry areas.

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## Southern sundrops

*Oenothera fruticosa*

**SOIL:** dry-medium

**HEIGHT:** 1-2'

**SPREAD:** 1-2'

**MAINTENANCE:** If plant foliage depreciates in summer after flowering, stems may be cut back to the basal rosette.

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