

CARING FOR THE DANSBURY DEPOT RAIN GARDEN



Aster "New England"

Symphotrichum novae-angliae

SOIL: moist

HEIGHT: 4-6'

SPREAD: 2-3'

MAINTENANCE: No staking required. Some susceptibility to powdery mildew. Good air circulation helps reduce incidence of foliar diseases. Pinching back stems several times before mid-July will help control plant height, promote bushiness and perhaps obviate the need for staking. Plants may be cut to the ground after flowering to prevent any unwanted self-seeding and/or if foliage has become unsightly.



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.



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.



Longhair sedge

Carex comosa

SOIL: wet-moist

HEIGHT: 1-3'

SPREAD: 18"

MAINTENANCE: Blooms May/June/July.



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.



Sneezeweed

Helenium autumnale

SOIL: medium-wet

HEIGHT: 3-5'

SPREAD: 2-3'

MAINTENANCE: Avoid overfertilization, which may cause plants to grow too tall. Although not required, plants may be cut back in early June (at least six weeks before normal flowering) to reduce plant height and to encourage branching, thus leading to a more floriferous bloom, healthier foliage and less need for support. Remove spent flowers to encourage additional bloom. Cut back plants by 1/2 after flowering. Divide clumps as needed (every 3-4 years) to maintain vigor.



Turtlehead

Chelone glabra

SOIL: medium-wet

HEIGHT: 2-3'

SPREAD: 1-3'

MAINTENANCE: Consider pinching back the stem ends in spring to reduce mature plant height, especially if growing plants in strongly shaded areas where they are more likely to need some support. In optimum environments, however, staking is usually not required. Slowly spreads by rhizomes. Some susceptibility to mildew, particularly if soils are kept on the dry side and/or air circulation is poor. If grown in too much shade, plants may need some support.