

# CARING FOR THE EAST STROUDSBURG HIGH SOUTH RAIN GARDEN



## Anise hyssop

*Agastache hyssop*

**SOIL:** moist-dry

**HEIGHT:** 3-6'

**SPREAD:** 1-3'

**MAINTENANCE:** Deadhead spent flowers to promote additional bloom. Plants will spread by rhizomes and will easily self seed in optimum growing conditions. Crown/root rot may develop in poorly drained soils. Watch for rust, powdery mildew and leaf spots.



## Aster "New England"

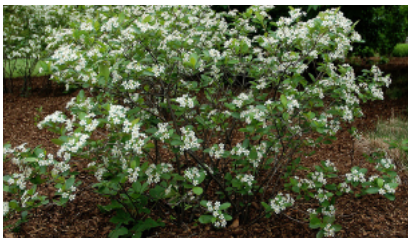
*Symphiotrichum novae-angliae*

**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.



## 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.



## Foxglove

*Digitalis purpurea*

**SOIL:** moist

**HEIGHT:** 3-6'

**SPREAD:** 6-12'

**MAINTENANCE:** Removal of flower spikes after bloom will encourage a secondary bloom. Cut all flowering stalks back to basal foliage before seed sets in order to encourage plants to act as perennials. If flower spikes are left in place after flowering and allowed to go to seed, plants will act more as biennials and will, in optimum growing conditions, freely self-seed. However the spent flower spikes can rapidly become quite unsightly. Powdery mildew and leaf spot, if left untreated, can depreciate foliage considerably by early to mid-summer. Dense crowns may rot in soggy, poorly-drained winter soils. Potential insect pests include aphids, mealy bugs, slugs and Japanese beetle.



## Goldenrod

*Solidago*

**SOIL:** wet

**HEIGHT:** Up to 6'

**SPREAD:** 6-10'

**MAINTENANCE:** Stake tall plants; keep soil moist; deadhead flowers before they have a chance to set seed; cut back to the ground in autumn; divide the plants every three years or so to maintain vigorous growth.

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## Highbush blueberry

*Vaccinium corymbosum*

**SOIL:** moist-dry

**HEIGHT:** 5-6'

**SPREAD:** 6-10'

**MAINTENANCE:** Plants appreciate a good organic mulch. Best to remove flowers from plants in the year of planting and in the following year so as to prevent fruit set and to encourage new vegetative growth. Prune as needed in late winter beginning in the third year after planting.



## Liatris

*Liatris*

**SOIL:** moist-dry

**HEIGHT:** 3-6'

**SPREAD:** 1-3'

**MAINTENANCE:** Intolerant of wet soils in winter. Tolerant of summer heat and humidity. Taller plants may require staking or other support.



## Purple coneflower

*Echinacea purpurea*

**SOIL:** moist

**HEIGHT:** 2-4'

**SPREAD:** 18-24"

**MAINTENANCE:** Divide clumps when they become overcrowded (about every 4 years). Plants usually rebloom without deadheading, however prompt removal of spent flowers improves general appearance. Japanese beetle and leaf spot are occasional problems. Susceptible to aster yellows disease.



## 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.



## Swamp milkweed

*Asclepias incarnata*

**SOIL:** moist

**HEIGHT:** 3-5'

**SPREAD:** 2'

**MAINTENANCE:** Plants have deep taproots and are best left undisturbed once established.



## Winter red holly

*Ilex verticillata*

**SOIL:** wet-moist

**HEIGHT:** 6-8'

**SPREAD:** 6-8'

**MAINTENANCE:** Flowers appear on new growth. Prune to shape in early spring just before new growth appears. Occasional disease problems include leaf spots and powdery mildew. Plants do poorly in neutral to alkaline soils where they are susceptible to chlorosis (yellowing of leaves) and often die.



## Yellow iris

*Iris pseudacorus*

**SOIL:** moist

**HEIGHT:** 3-4'

**SPREAD:** 2-3'

**MAINTENANCE:** Soils should never be allowed to dry out. Remove seed pods before they mature to prevent any unwanted self-seeding.