

CARING FOR THE GLEN BROOK 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.



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.



Broom sedge

Carex scoparia

SOIL: wet-moist
HEIGHT: 1-2'
SPREAD: 1-2'

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



False sunflower

Heliopsis helianthoides

SOIL: moist
HEIGHT: 4-6'
SPREAD: 3-5'

MAINTENANCE: Tolerates some light shade, but plants are less vigorous and stems need support in heavier shade. Remove spent flowers to extend bloom season. Plant stems may be cut back by 1/3 to 1/2 in late May to reduce overall plant height.



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.



Husker red Penstemon

Penstemon digitalis

SOIL: moist-dry
HEIGHT: 3-5'
SPREAD: 1-2'

MAINTENANCE: Root rot can occur in wet, poorly drained soils. Leaf spots are occasional problems.



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.



Pussy willow

Salix discolor

SOIL: medium-wet

HEIGHT: 6-14'

SPREAD: 4-12'

MAINTENANCE: Prune as needed in late winter to early spring. Plants may be cut to the ground every 3-5 years to maintain a smaller shrub shape. Susceptible to numerous disease problems including blights, powdery mildew, leaf spots, gray scab and cankers. It also is visited by many insect pests including aphids, scale, borers, lacebugs and caterpillars. Wood is weak and may crack. Branches may be damaged by ice and snow.



Soft rush

Juncus effusus

SOIL: moist

HEIGHT: 3'

SPREAD: 1-2'

MAINTENANCE: Cut back old foliage in early spring. Propagate by seed or division. Rust, leaf spot and stem rots may occur.



Steeplebush

Spiraea tomentosa

SOIL: medium-wet

HEIGHT: 2-4'

SPREAD: 3-5'

MAINTENANCE: Remove faded flower clusters as practicable to encourage additional bloom. Flowers on new wood, so prune in late winter to early spring if needed. Spreads by suckers to form colonies. Susceptible to many of the diseases that attack other rose family members, including leaf spot, fire blight and powdery mildew. Potential insect pests include aphids, leaf roller, caterpillars and scale.
