

# CARING FOR THE SARAH STREET GRILL RAIN GARDEN



## 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.



## Butterfly weed

*Asclepias tuberosa*

SOIL: dry

HEIGHT: 18-24"

SPREAD: 2'

**MAINTENANCE:** Slow to establish and may take 2-3 years to produce flowers. Probably best left undisturbed once established.



## 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.



## 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.



## Fireworks rough-leaved goldenrod

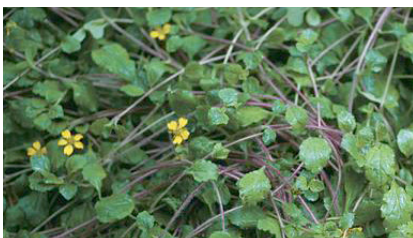
*Solidago rugosa*

SOIL: moist

HEIGHT: 3-4'

SPREAD: 2-3'

**MAINTENANCE:** Remove spent flower clusters to encourage additional bloom. Leaf rust is an occasional problem. May need to be divided every 2 to 3 years to control growth.



## Green and Gold

*Chrysogonum virginianum*

SOIL: moist

HEIGHT: 6"

SPREAD: 12"

**MAINTENANCE:** Spreads by rhizomes to form an attractive ground cover, but is easily controlled. Remove spent flower stems for best ground cover appearance. Some susceptibility to mildew.



## Gro-low fragrant sumac

*Rhus aromatica*

SOIL: dry-medium

HEIGHT: 2-6'

SPREAD: 6-10'

**MAINTENANCE:** Some susceptibility to leaf spot, rust, scale, aphids and mites. Nipple galls on foliage are a somewhat common, but generally cosmetic problem.

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## 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.



## Marsh marigold

*Caltha palustris*

**SOIL:** wet

**HEIGHT:** 8-12"

**SPREAD:** 12-18"

**MAINTENANCE:** Susceptible to powdery mildew and rust.



## 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.



## Silky dogwood

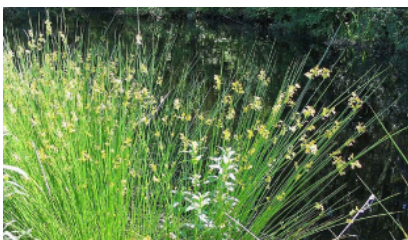
*Cornus amomum*

**SOIL:** moist

**HEIGHT:** 6-12'

**SPREAD:** 6-12'

**MAINTENANCE:** Benefits from a 2-4" mulch which will help keep roots cool and moist in summer. Branches that touch the ground may root at the nodes. When left alone, this shrub may spread to form thickets. Susceptible to scale. Additional insect pests include borers and leaf miner. Infrequent disease problems include leaf spot, crown canker, blights, root rot and powdery mildew.



## 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.



## 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.