

# Rain Garden Plants

Plants for a rain garden are adapted to both wet and dry conditions. At the bottom of the basin, use plants that can sit in water for several days such as Rushes, Sedges and Yerba Mansa. On the sides and around the perimeter berms, you can place flowering plants that don't mind having their roots in wet soil temporarily such as Columbine or Ground Morning Glory. Plants listed below indicate where best to place them in your rain garden.

## Golden Columbine *Aquilegia chrysantha*

*Aquilegia chrysantha* (golden columbine), perennial, 2-3 feet tall and 1-2 feet wide, with leaves divided into lobed, bright green leaflets and large, fragrant, yellow flowers well above the leaves in late spring. Native to shaded, damp places in desert mountains from Arizona to western Texas and south to northern Mexico. Self-sows. Cool sun to part shade, well-drained soils. Can be cut back hard to renew.

Sunset: 1-24

Plant along the top rim of the rain garden.



## Point St. George Aster *Aster chilensis* 'Pt. St. George'

*Aster chilensis* 'Point St. George' (Point St. George aster), perennial, 4-6 inches tall and spreading rapidly by rhizomes, with narrowly oval to lance-shaped, lightly hairy, green leaves and lavender or white, late-summer daisy flowers with yellow centers. Can be weedy. Species is 1-3 feet tall and native to many habitats from British Columbia to central California, especially along the coast. Sun to part shade, most soils. Accepts periodic flooding. May be offered as *Symphotrichum*.

Sunset: N/A

## European Gray Sedge *Carex divulsa*

*Carex divulsa* (European gray sedge), perennial, 1-2 feet tall and wide, clump-forming, with glossy, dark green, grasslike, arching leaves and small, inconspicuous, green flowers from late winter through spring that age to brown. Native from Europe and North Africa east to central Asia. Self-sows freely and should not be planted near wildlands. Mow before seed set to contain spread. Cool sun to part shade, most soils. Adaptable. May be offered as Berkeley sedge or as *C. tumulicola*, which is a smaller, less vigorous plant.

Sunset: 2b-9, 11-24

Plant in the bottom of the rain garden.



# Rain Garden Plants



## San Diego Sedge

*Carex spissa*

*Carex spissa* (San Diego sedge), perennial, 3-4 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide, loosely clumping and spreading slowly by rhizomes, with coarse-textured, silvery gray-green to bluish gray, grasslike leaves and spikes of greenish yellow spring or summer flowers that age to dark reddish brown. Native to streamsides and seasonally wet places in southern California, Arizona, and northern Mexico. Accepts periodic flooding. Sun to light shade, moisture-retentive soils.

Sunset: 7-9,14-17,19-24

Plant in either the bottom or sides of the rain garden.

## Texas Sedge

*Carex texensis*

*Carex texensis* (Texas sedge), perennial, clumping 4-6 inches tall and spreading slowly by rhizomes to form a rough turf. Fine-textured, grasslike, green leaves and tiny, green flowers in summer that age to brown. Native to dry meadows and moist, sandy woodlands from New York to Georgia and west to Oklahoma and Texas. Cool sun to part shade, most soils, including periodically flooded.

Sunset: 7-9,11-24

Plant in either the bottom or sides of the rain garden.



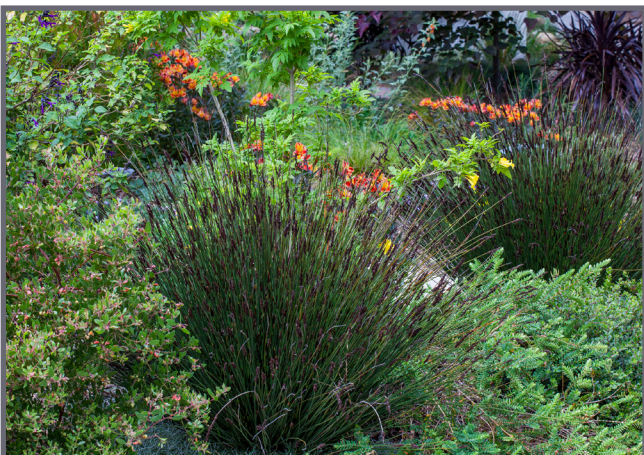
## Cape Rush

*Chondropetalum tectorum* 'El Campo'

*Chondropetalum tectorum* (cape rush), perennial from rhizomes, 3-4 feet tall and wide, with stiff, narrow, grasslike stems, small, brownish, papery bracts at nodes along the stems, and clusters of tiny, dark brown flowers at stem ends. Initially upright and then relaxing on all sides to create a graceful mound. New stems arise from the center. Native to Western Cape and Eastern Cape provinces, South Africa, near the coast and often in marshes or seeps. Sun to light shade, most soils. May be offered as *Elegia*.

Sunset: 8-9,14-24

Plant in the bottom of the rain garden.



# Rain Garden Plants

## California Fuchsia

*Epilobium canum* 'Summer Snow'

*Epilobium canum* 'Summer Snow', (California fuchsia) perennial, mat-forming, 4-10 inches tall and 1-2 feet wide, with pale gray-green leaves on arching stems and tubular, bright white flowers from late summer into fall. Spreads by rhizomes. Deciduous or semi-deciduous in winter. Species is native to dry slopes and ridges from northern California to northern Baja California. This selection is from southern California's San Bernardino Mountains. Sun near the coast, afternoon shade inland, most well-drained soils. May be offered as *Zauschneria*.

Sunset: 2-11,14-24

Plant on the sides of the rain garden.



## California Gray Rush

*Juncus patens* 'Elk Blue'

*Juncus patens* and cultivars (California gray rush), grasslike plant, to 2 feet tall and wide, with stiffly upright, gray-green to bluish green, leafless stems and tiny, rusty brown flowers partially hidden among the stems in spring and summer. Native to moist or seasonally moist coastal locations from southern Washington to northern Baja California. 'Elk Blue', from coastal northern California, has especially narrow and especially blue stems. Can grow in shallow water. Spreads by rhizomes in moist or wet locations. Sun to shade, most soils. Dormant in summer if grown dry.

Sunset: 4-9,14-24

Plant in the bottom of the rain garden.

## Pine Muhly

*Muhlenbergia dubia*

*Muhlenbergia dubia* (pine muhly), warm-season bunchgrass, 1-2 feet tall and 2 feet wide, with fine-textured, bright green leaves and tall plumes of purple-tinged, creamy white flowers in late summer and fall. Self-sows but not aggressively. Native to desert mountains from Arizona to southwestern Texas and northern Mexico. Sun to light shade, fast drainage, good air circulation.

Sunset: 3b,7-24

Plant on sides or top rim of rain garden.



# Rain Garden Plants



## Lindheimer Muhly

*Muhlenbergia lindheimeri* 'Autumn Glow'

*Muhlenbergia lindheimeri* 'Autumn Glow', (Lindheimer muhly) warm-season bunchgrass, upright to 3-4 feet tall and wide, with fine-textured, medium green to bluish gray leaves and 5- to 6-foot stems with pale yellow, late-summer flowers that age to tan. Self-sows but not aggressively. Species is native to Texas and northern Mexico and has creamy white flowers that age to silvery gray. Sun to light shade, most soils, good air circulation. Accepts periodic flooding.

Sunset: 6-24

Plant on bottom or on sides of rain garden.

## Zephyr Lily

*Zephyranthes candida*

*Zephyranthes candida* (zephyr lily), perennial from bulb, 1 foot tall and wide, spreading by offsets to form dense colonies, with narrow, upright, rushlike, glossy green leaves and tubular, white flowers with golden yellow stamens in late summer and fall.

Native to seasonal wetlands and marshes from northeastern Argentina and Paraguay to southern Brazil and Uruguay. Sun to part shade, humusy, well-drained soils.

Sunset: 4-9,12-24

Plant in the bottom or on the sides of the rain garden.

