

GARDENING WITHOUT SPRINKLERS? DRY GARDENS AND RAIN GARDENS

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In this changing climate we are faced with more uncertain and erratic rainfall. How do gardeners find ways to use this to their advantage to have a beautiful yet ecologically friendly garden?

To reduce our reliance on artificial irrigation, we can plan our garden beds to be communities of plants with the same or similar water needs. Cluster these groupings in the areas of your garden where they are most appropriate.

Dry gardens may be either rarely watered or never watered, relying solely on natural precipitation after establishment of the plants. Areas that are well away from the house and any hoses are, by necessity, good candidates for a dry garden. Naturally dry areas tend to be uphill and may have coarse or rocky soil. Gravel or rock mulch may be added to the surface to reduce evaporation from the soil and regulate temperature.

Jenny Rose Carey's Suggested Plants for dry and low-water use gardens

1. *Achillea millefolium* and others – Yarrow
2. *Armeria maritima* – Sea thrift
3. *Callirhoe involucrata* – Winecup
4. *Cephalaria gigantea* – Giant scabious
5. *Dasiphora fruticosa* (*Potentilla fruticosa*) – Shrubby cinquefoil
6. *Echinacea angustifolia*, *E. pallida*, *E. purpurea* – Coneflower
7. *Echinops ritro* – Globe thistle
8. *Eryngium yuccifolium* – Rattlesnake master
9. *Eschscholzia californica* – California poppy
10. *Gaillardia aristata* and others – Blanket flower
11. *Geum triflorum* – Prairie smoke
12. *Lupinus arboreus*, *L. albicaulis* and others – Lupin
13. *Phlomis tuberosa* and *P. russeliana* – Jerusalem sage
14. *Sedum* / *Hylotelephium* – Sedum
15. *Stokesia laevis* – Stokes' aster

Rain gardens tend to be installed in areas of the garden that collect water naturally. They are used to slow down the flow of rainwater from your property and to increase the infiltration of water back into the soil. To create this type of garden, soil can be excavated from below grade and then mounded in berms that hold back or slow water flow. By design, such rain gardens provide a wide variety of available planting habitats.

The lowest section of a rain garden is for the plants that can grow with roots in water or very wet soil. Slightly higher ground is appropriate for plants that will tolerate occasional flooding or that enjoy moist soil. The tops of the berms are the driest zone where many garden plants are happy to grow. The principals of rain garden planting can be applied to other wet areas in the garden, such as are found near downspouts, by streams, and in low-lying places.

Jenny Rose Carey's Suggested Plants for rain gardens

1. *Aruncus dioicus* var. *acuminatus* – Goat's beard
2. *Asclepias speciosa* and *A. tuberosa* – Showy milkweed
3. *Astilbe* species and cultivars – False spiraea
4. *Caltha leptosepala* ssp. *leptosepala* and *C. palustris* – marsh marigold
5. *Camassia leichtlinii* and *C. quamash* – Camas
6. *Cornus sericea* – Red-twig dogwood
7. *Darmera peltata* – Umbrella plant
8. *Fragaria vesca* and *F. chiloensis* – Wild strawberry
9. *Helenium autumnale* – Sneezeweed
10. *Iris missouriensis*, *I. tenax*, and others – Iris
11. *Juncus* and *Carex* – Rushes and Sedges
12. *Liatris spicata*, *L. ligulistylis*, and others - Blazingstar
13. *Lobelia cardinalis* – Cardinal flower
14. *Monarda didyma* and others – Bee balm
15. *Tolmiea menziesii* – Piggyback plant

If you are interested in seeing an East Coast woodland shade garden, feel free to follow my Instagram account @Northviewgarden