Landscape Rebate Program

Rain Garden Plant List



Plants used within rain gardens play an important role in reducing stormwater runoff, trapping pollutants, minimizing erosion, creating habitat and enhancing the overall aesthetic of the garden. The following plant list is adapted from *Appendix D: Plant List and Planting Guidance for Landscape-based Stormwater Measures* of the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program's *C.3 Stormwater Handbook* and includes only the plants that are also found on the Landscape Rebate Program's Qualifying Plant List. The Rain Garden Plant List can be used as a guide, but more research should be done to choose plants that are suitable to your particular site conditions. If installing the rain garden within a Landscape Conversion Rebate project area, the plants used in the rain garden specifically must be from the following list or found on the Qualifying Plant List.

Reference Links:

-Appendix D: Plant List and Planting Guidance for Landscape-based Stormwater Measures: https://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/35933

-Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention -Program's C.3 Stormwater Handbook: https://www.sccgov.org/sites/cwp/Documents/SCVURPPP_C.3_Technical_Guidance_Handbook_2016_Chapters.pdf
-SCVWD Landscape Rebate Program's Qualifying Plant List: https://scvwd.dropletportal.com/public/pdf/plant_list/full/

SHRUBS DESCRIPTION						PLANTIN	IG & MAINT	ENANCE		LANDSCAPE INTEREST/USES	PL	ANTING ZOM	NES		TRE	ATMENT TY	COMMENTS				
Scientific Name	Common Name	Flower Color	Height (Feet)	Spread (Feet)	Shape: Mounding (M), Spreading (S), Upright (U), Round (R)	Growth Rate: Fast (F), Moderate (M), Slow (S)	Water Needs: Very Low (VL), Low (L), Moderate (M)	Solar Needs: Full-Sun (FS), Part-Shade (PS), Shade (S)	Maintenance Needs	CA Native	SCVWD Plant List		Basin	Banks	Upland	Bioretention	Flow-Through Planter	Tree Well Filter	Green Roof*	Turf Block Pavers	
Arctostaphylos densiflora 'McMinn'	Mazanita 'McMinn'	white	5-6	7	М	М	L	FS to PS	L	•	•	Fine textured bright green foliage and red bark. Well-drained soils.		•	•	•	•				Will not tolerate wet roots Listed as Arctostaphylos spp.
Arctostaphylos hookeri	Hooker's Manzanita	white	2-8	3-12	М	М	L	FS to PS	L	•	•	Fine textured bright green foliage and red bark. Well-drained soils.		•	•	•	•				Will not tolerate wet roots
Callistemon viminalis 'Little John'	Dwarf Bottlebrush	blood red	3-4	4-8	R	М	L/M	FS	L		•	Can be pruned up to small trees; heat tolerant. Clay tolerant.		•	•	•	•				
Cistus spp.	Rockrose	varies	varies 3	3-5 x 3-5	R	L	L	FS	М		•	neat, compact shrub with showy white, pink or rose-purple blooms. Adaptable.		•	•	•	•				Sensitive to excess water
Cotinus coggygria	Smoke Tree	purple	12-15	up to 25	U	М	L	FS	L		•	Deciduous small tree/large shrub; flowers form smoke-like look around the plant; slow growing. Well-drained soils. Cold and heat tolerant.		•	•	•	•				
Garrya elliptica	Silk Tassel	white	10-20	10-20	R	М	L	FS to PS	L	•	•	Interesting flowers hang in tassels; large shrub/small tree. Well-drained soil.		•	•	•	•				
Grevillea spp.	Grevillea		varie	es		М	L	FS to PS	L		•	Very heat tolerant; attracts hummingbirds. Tolerant of poor soils.		•	•	•	•				Does not tolerate wet roots
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon	white	6-15	15-20	R	F	VL	FS to PS	М	•	•	Large shrub/small tree; red berries; green leaves with white flowers; takes pruning well, but flowers only on second year growth. Adaptable.		•	•	•	•				
Mahonia (Berberis) aquifolium var. repens	Creeping Barberry	yellow	2-3	3-4	S	S	L	PS	L	•	•	Yellow flowers in spring. Berries attract birds. Well-drained soil.		•	•	•	•				
Mahonia nevinii	Nevin Mahonia	yellow	6-10	6-12	U	М	L	PS	L	•	•	Rigid branches covered with gray- blue foliage. Adaptable; tolerates clay and alkaline		•	•	•	•				
Mahonia pinnata	California Holly Grape	yellow	4-5	4-5	U	М	L	PS	L.	•	•	Reddish orange new growth.		•	•	•	•				
Nerium oleander	Oleander	red/ pink/ white	va	ries	R	М	L	FS	L		•	Very heat tolerant. Poisonous: eating flowers or chewing leaves or stems.			•			•			Size varies with varieties; Standard form for tree well filters. Can develop mildew in Zone 17 - prefers moisture only at root zone.
Rhamnus californica 'Little Sur'	Little Sur Coffeeberry	incon- spicuous	3-4	3-4	R	М	L/M	FS-PS	М	•	•	Grey-green leaves, red bark, and showy berries in fall. Adaptable.			•	•	•				Partial shade inland
Ribes sanguineum (incl cultivars)	Red-Flowering Currant	pink	6	6	U	F	L	PS	М	•	•	Red-pink showy flower clusters. Adaptable.		•	•	•	•				
Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry	white	6	8	S	М	L/M	PS	М	•	•	Large white berries in the fall; berries are not edible. Adaptable.		•	•	•	•				Best with regular moisture

GRA	SSES		DE	ESCRIPTION					PLANTING 8	&MAINTEN	ANCE	LANDSCAPE INTEREST/USES		PLANTING ZONES	ì		TR	EATMENT T	COMMENTS		
Scientific Name	Common Name	Flower Color	Height (Feet)	Spread (Feet)	Shape: Mounding (M), Spreading (S), Upright (U), Round (R)	Growth Rate: Fast (F), Moderate (M), Slow (S)	Water Needs: Very Low (VL), Low (L), Moderate (M)	Solar Needs: Full-Sun (FS), Part-Shade (PS), Shade (S)	Main tenance Needs	CA Native	SCWVD Plant List		Basin	Banks	Upland	Bioretention	Flow-Through Planter	Tree Well Filter	Green Roof*	Turf Block Pavers	
Aristida purpurea	Purple Three-Awn	white	2-3	2	U	F	VL	FS	L	•	•	Purple seed heads that wave gracefully in the wind; recommended for erosion control on slopes, hillsides, and in canyons. Well-drained soil.		•	•	•	•				
Bouteloua gracilis 'Blonde Ambition'	Blonde Ambition Blue Grama	chartreuse turning to blonde	1.5-2	1	М	М	L	FS	L	•	•	Can be grown from seed; no irrigation needed once established. Adaptable to many soils, prefers well-draining. Showy flowers last summer through winter.		•	•	•	•				
Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'	Feather Reed Grass	light tan	2-3	2-3	U	F	L	PS	L	•	•	Background plant. Well-draining.			•	•	•				
Carex divulsa (C. tumulicola)	Berkeley Sedge		2	2	U	F	L	FS to PS	L	•	•	Greenish flowers age to brown in winter and spring. Clay-tolerant; tolerates damp, well-drained soil.	•	•	•	•	•				Cannot tolerate standing water
Carex pansa	Dune Sedge		1	1	М	F	L/M	FS to PS	L	•	•	Creeping meadow sedge, good on slopes. Tolerates variety of soil and climate conditions.	•	•	•	•	•				Sensitive to overwatering
Chondropetalum elephantinum	Large Cape Rush	brown	3-5	4-6	U	М	L/ M	FS to PS	L		•	Tolerates wet well-draining soils and drought. Large striking upright form.	•	•	•	•	•				
Chondropetalum tectorum	Small Cape Rush	brown	2-3	3-4	U	М	L	FS	L		•	Small, unique plant forms broad clumps of thin erect jointed stems; evergreen; good for erosion control. Accepts both dry and wet conditions	•	•	•	•	•				
Festuca californica	California Fescue		2	2	U	М	L	FS to PS	L	•	•	Cool season bunchgrass with flower stalks that reach 5 ft. tall and create fountain-like clumps. Beneficial insect plant.		•	•	•	•				
Festuca glauca 'Elijah Blue'	Blue Fescue		>1	>1	R	F	L	PS	L		•	Forms clumps of silver-blue leaves; long lived; use as edging. well-drained		•	•	•	•				
Festuca idahoensis	Blue Bunchgrass		1	1	R	F	L	FS to PS	L		•	Well-drained		•	•	•	•	•			Blue Bunchgrass listed as Idaho Fescue
Helictotrichon sempervirens	Blue Oat Grass	light blue	1-2	1-2	U	М	L	PS	L		•	Attractive symmetrical form and bue color with straw-colored flower. well-drained		•	•	•	•				
Juncus patens	Californis Grey Rush	brown	2	1	U	М	L	FS to PS	L	•	•	Accepts both dry and wet conditions	•	•	•	•	•				
Muhlenbergia rigens	Deer Grass	yellow	4	4-6	R	М	L	FS	L	•	•	Clean, dependable form; very rugged. Adaptable.		•	•	•	•				
Muhlenbergia capillaris	Pink Muhly Grass	pink	4	3-4	R	М	L	PS	L		•	Showy pink panicles in late summer. well- drained		•	•	•	•				Pink Muhly Grass listed as Hairy awn Muhly
Sisyrinchium bellum	Blue-Eyed Grass	blue, yellow	1-1.5	0.5	U	F	VL/L	FS to PS	L	•	•	drained Dies back in summer; use as a small accent plant; long green leaves with blue and purple flowers with yellow center; goes dormant in summer. Adaptable		•	•	•	•		•		Check notes
Stipa pulchra	Purple Needlegrass		4-6	4-6	U	F	L	FS	L		•	Long-lived native bunch grass. Adaptable.	•	•	•	•	•				Check notes

	GROUNDCOVERS & TURF ALTERNATIVES DESCRIPTION							PLANTIN	IG & MAINT	ENANCE		LANDSCAPE INTEREST/USES	PL	ANTING ZO	NES		TR	EATMENT T	COMMENTS		
Scientific Name	Common Name	Flower Color	Height (Feet)	Spread (Feet)	Shape: Mounding (M), Spreading (S), Upright (U), Round (R)	Growth Rate: Fast (F), Moderate (M), Slow (S)	Water Needs: Very Low (VL), Low (L), Moderate (M)	Solar Needs: Full-Sun (FS), Part-Shade (PS), Shade (S)	Maintenance Needs	CA Native	SCVWD Plant List	Basin		Banks	Upland	Bioretention	Flow-Through Planter	Tree Well Fiter	Green Roof*	Turf Block Pavers	
	I										GRO	UNDCOVERS		1		1	1		1		
Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet'	Emerald Carpet Manzanita	white	1-1.5	3-6	S	M	L	FS	L	•	•	Neat, green, spreader. Adaptable, prefers well-drained		•	•	•	•				Spreads best with even moisture
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Bearberry, Kinnikinnick	blood red	3-12	4-9	S	М	Low	FS	L	•	•	Set out plants 2' apart for solid cover. Clay-tolerant.		•	•	•	•				
Baccharis pilularis 'Twin Peaks'	Dwarf Coyote Brush	white	1-2	6-10	S	F	L/M	FS	М	•	•	Small dark green leaves; excellent for erosion control; very important shrub for wildlife. Tolerates most soils.		•	•	•	•				
Mahonia repens	Creeping Oregon Grape	yellow	2.5'	3-5'	S	М	L/M	PS	М	•	•	Fall color; Well-draining soil.		•	•	•	•				
Salvia sonomensis	Creeping Sage	purple	2	6-8	S	М	L	FS	М	•	•	Nice mounding and spreading groundcover with pruple/blue flowers; fragrant leaves, especially in summer. Adaptable.		•	•	•	•		•		Prefers 6" growing medium
Verbena peruviana	Peruvian Verbena	scarlet, white	>1	2-3	S	М	L	FS	М		•	Set out plants 2' apart for solid cover; offers super vibrant red flowers with small white centers. Well-drained; adaptable.		•	•	•	•				
											TURF	ALTERNATIVES									
Bouteloua gracilis	Blue Gramma Grass		1.5-2	1	S	F	L	FS	L	•	•	irrigate to 1ft to establish; after established needs no irrigation; nice as border planting; okay to mow down to 1.5in		•	•	•	•		•	•	
Buchloe dactyloides	Buffalograss		<1	<1	s	F	VL	FS	L		•	requires little or no mowing; grows to 4" tall; start from sod or plugs. Adaptable to soil types.		•	•	•	•			•	
Festuca rubra 'molate'	Molate Fescue		1	-	S	F	M/L	FS/ PS	М		•	Prefers part shade, regular water in hot areas, lawn alternative.				•	•		•	•	
Dymondia margaretae	Dymondia, Silver Carpet	yellow	1-3"	1-2'	S	М	M/L	FS	L		•	Tight ground-hugging groundcover good as turf substitute in small areas. Tolerates heat, sun and cold to 28 degrees.		•	•	•	•			•	
Lippia nodiflora	Kurapia	white	1"-3"	-	S	М	L	FS/ PS	L		•	Spreading grouncover from Japan. Tolerates periodic innundation. Flowers can atract bees.	•	•	•	•	•		•		Prefers 6" growing medium
	Howers can atract bees.																				
PEREN	INIALS		DE	SCRIPTION					PLANTING 8			LANDSCAPE INTEREST/USES	PLANTING ZONES				TREATMENT TYPES				COMMENTS
Scientific Name	Common Name	Flower Color	Height (Feet)	Spread (Feet)	Shape: Mounding (M), Spreading (S), Upright (U), Round (R)	Growth Rate: Fast (F), Moderate (M), Slow (S)	Water Needs: Very Low (VL), Low (L), Moderate (M)	Solar Needs: Full-Sun (FS), Part-Shade (PS), Shade (S)	Maintenance Needs	CA Native	SCVWD Plant List		Basin	Banks	Upland	Bioretention	Flow-Through Planter	Tree Well Filter	Green Roof*	Turf Block Pavers	
Achillea millefolium	Common Yarrow	white	3	2	s	F	L	FS	L	•	•	Erect plant with narrow green stems and wide white flowers - easy, full sun near bay, part shade inland; attracts beneficial insects. tolerates most soils		•	•	•	•		•		Maintenance challenges; longevity issues
Achillea filipendulina	Fern-Leaf Yarrow	golden	3-4	2-3	U	М	L	FS	М		•	Deeply-dissected, fern-like, aromatic, grayish- green to green foliage and its tiny, long-lasting, bright golden flowers. Tolerates most soils.		•	•	•	•		•		
Armeria maritima	Sea Pink	pink	1	1	М	s	L-M	FS	L		•	Only in zones 16-17; not for hot interior landscapes		•	•	•	•		•		Maintenance challenges; longevity issues

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Anigozanthus spp.	Kangaroo Paw	red, purple, green, yellow	to 6	to 3	U	F	L	FS	L			Attracts hummingbirds. Well-draineded soils.	•	•	•	•				Unattractive if subject to freezing or standing water
Coreopis grandiflora	Coreopsis	purple-blue	1.5- 2.5	2-3	S	М	L	FS	L		•	Daisy-like single flowers feature deep yellow rays (notched at the tips) surrounding a darker golden yellow center disk. Tolerates most soils.	•	•	•	•		•		
Dietes iridioides	Fortnight Lily	pale yellow; light blue; white	up to 3	1-1.5	U	М	L	FS	L		•	Use as accent or massing, orchid-like flowers. Clay-tolerant.	•	•	•	•				Disruptive to planting/soil when pulled up and divided evey 5 years
Echeveria spp.	Hens and Chicks	pink		varies		М	L/VL	FS	L		•	Succulent; use in small areas; colorful foliage - variety of species and textures. Prefer light well- drained soil w/some moisture spring/summer.	•	•	•	•		•		
Epilobium bowman	Bowman California Fuchsia	orange	varies	1.5-3	S	F	L	FS	L	•	•	Gray foliage; showy summer flowers; height varies by cultivar	•	•	•	•				
Epilobium canum	California Fuchsia	orange-red	varies	1.5-3	S	F	L	FS	L	•	•	Gray foliage; showy summer flowers; height varies by cultivar	•	•	•	•				
Erigeron glaucus 'Wayne Roderick'	Wayne Roderick Daisy	lavender	1	3	М	М	М	FS to PS	L	•	•	Blooms spring thru fall. Well-drained soil.	•	•	•	•				
Erigeron karvinskianus	Santa Barbara Daisy	white with pink tinge	10-18"	2-3'	М	F	L-M	FS to PS	L	•	•	Small daisy-like flowers, feathery texure. Well- drained soil.	•	•	•	•				Reseeds
Eriogonum grande var. rubescens	Red-Flowered Buckwheat	rosy red	1-2'	1-2'	s	F	L	FS to PS	L	•	•	Flowers spring-summer atop slender stems, attracts beneficial insects. Tolerates most soils.	•	•	•	•		•		Reseeds
Eriogonum latifolium	Coast Buckwheat	pink, white	6	6	S	F	Low	FS	Low	•	•	Creamy white pom-poms rise above dark green, spoon-shaped leaves in the summer; good in containers. Tolerates most soils.	•	•	•	•		•		
Eschscholzia californica	California Poppy	orange	1.5	1.5-2	S	F	VL	FS	L	•	•	Reseeds easily; summer dormant. Well-drained soils.	•	•	•	•		•		Maintenance challenges; longevity issues
Gaillardia grandiflora	Blanket Flower	varies	2-3	1-2	U	М	L	FS	L		•	Daisy-like flowers, usually yellow to orange to red rays with maroon to orange banding at the petal bases and dark burgundy center disks. Well-drained soils.	•	•	•	•		•		Prefers 6" planting medium
Iris douglasiana	Douglas Iris	varies	1.5	1.5	S	М	L	PS	L	•	•	Well-drained soil.	•	•	•	•				Maintenance challenges; longevity issues
Mimulus aurantiacus	Sticky Monkey Flower	varies	3-4	3-4	М	М	L	FS to PS	L	•	•	Well adapted to heat, sun, summer drought. Well-drained soils.	•	•	•	•				Can be short-lived, 3 years; Maintenance challenges; longevity issues
Mimulus aurantiacus var. puniceus	Red Monkey Flower	red	3-4	3-4	М	М	L	FS to PS	L	•	•	Well-drained soil.	•	•	•	•				Can be short-lived, 3 years; Maintenance challenges; longevity issues
Monardella villosa	Coyote Mint	light purple	2	2	М	F	VL	FS to PS	L	•	•	Attracts butterflies, including Monarchs, Tiger Swallowtails Well-drained soil.	•	•	•	•		•		Prefers 6" growing medium; Maintenance challenges; longevity issues
Penstemon heterophyllus 'Blue Springs'	Foothill Penstemon	Iridescent blue-purple	1-2	2	М	F	L	FS	М	•	•	Very tough plant. Tolerates full sun, heat, most soils. Flowers attract butterflies, beees, hummingbirds.	•	•	•	•		•		Prefers 6" planting medium
Sedum sp. (many)	Stone Crop	varies	va	ries	S	М	L	FS	L		•	Varied succulent species. Prefer well-drained soils. Many heat adapted and thrive in dry gardens, green roofs.	•	•	•	•		•		
Tulbaghia violacea	Society Garlic	pink	2	1	М	F	L	FS	L		•	Very dependable grass-like plant with pink flower atop 2' stalks. Distinctive garlic odor. Tolerates most soils.	•	•	•	•				
Verbena lilacina	De La Mina Lilac	purple	3	3	s	М	L	S to PS	L		•	Low, mounding perennial, attracts bees and butterflies.	•	•	•	•				

TR	EES		DE	SCRIPTION					PLANTING 8			LANDSCAPE INTEREST/USES	,	TREATMEN' TYPES	COMMENTS	
Scientific Name	Common Name	Evergreen (E) or Deciduous (D)	Height (Feet)	Spread (Feet)	Shape: Round (R), Pyramidal (P), Broad (B), Oval (O), Upright (U)	Growth Rate: Fast (F), Moderate (M), Slow (S)	Water Needs: Very Low (VL), Low (L), Moderate (M)	Solar Needs: Full-Sun (FS), Part-Shade (PS), Shade (S)	Maintenance Needs: Low (L), Moderate (M)	CA Native	SCVWD Plant List		Bioretention Planter	Flow-Through Planter	Tree Well Filter	
Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud	D	10-18	10-18	R	S	L	FS	М	•	•	Deep pink early spring bloom; Use multi-trunk where possible; short lived. Clay-tolerant.	•	•	•	
Lagerstroemia indica (cultivars)	Crape Myrtle	D	15-25	8 to 15	R	S	L	FS	М		•	Attractive peeling cinnamon bark, excellent winter feature; spec cultivars: 'Muskogee', 'Natchez', 'Osage', 'Tuscarora'. Tolerates most soils; well-drained.	•		•	
Prunus ilicifolia	Holley leaf Cherry	E	15	15	0	М	L	FS	L	•	•	Skinny branches with large leaves and cherry looking fruit; can be trained into a small tree. Adaptable to most soils.	•	•	•	
Prunus ilicifolia spp. Lyonii	Catalina Cherry Laurel	E	10	15	0	М	L	FS	L	•	•	Shiny green leaves with small white flowers. Adaptable to most soils.	•	•	•	