

# 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](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/](https://scvwd.dropletportal.com/public/pdf/plant_list/full/)

SHRUBS		DESCRIPTION					PLANTING & MAINTENANCE					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		
<i>Arctostaphylos densiflora</i> 'McMinn'	Mazanita 'McMinn'	white	5-6	7	M	M	L	FS to PS	L	●	●	Fine textured bright green foliage and red bark. Well-drained soils.		●	●	●	●				Will not tolerate wet roots Listed as <i>Arctostaphylos</i> spp.	
<i>Arctostaphylos hookeri</i>	Hooker's Manzanita	white	2-8	3-12	M	M	L	FS to PS	L	●	●	Fine textured bright green foliage and red bark. Well-drained soils.		●	●	●	●				Will not tolerate wet roots	
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i> 'Little John'	Dwarf Bottlebrush	blood red	3-4	4-8	R	M	L/M	FS	L		●	Can be pruned up to small trees; heat tolerant. Clay tolerant.		●	●	●	●					
<i>Cistus</i> spp.	Rockrose	varies	varies 3-5 x 3-5		R	L	L	FS	M		●	neat, compact shrub with showy white, pink or rose-purple blooms. Adaptable.		●	●	●	●				Sensitive to excess water	
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Smoke Tree	purple	12-15	up to 25	U	M	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.		●	●	●	●					
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	Silk Tassel	white	10-20	10-20	R	M	L	FS to PS	L	●	●	Interesting flowers hang in tassels; large shrub/small tree. Well-drained soil.		●	●	●	●					
<i>Grevillea</i> spp.	Grevillea	varies				M	L	FS to PS	L		●	●	Very heat tolerant; attracts hummingbirds. Tolerant of poor soils.		●	●	●	●				Does not tolerate wet roots
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon	white	6-15	15-20	R	F	VL	FS to PS	M	●	●	Large shrub/small tree; red berries; green leaves with white flowers; takes pruning well, but flowers only on second year growth. Adaptable.		●	●	●	●					
<i>Mahonia (Berberis) aquifolium</i> var. <i>repens</i>	Creeping Barberry	yellow	2-3	3-4	S	S	L	PS	L	●	●	Yellow flowers in spring. Berries attract birds. Well-drained soil.		●	●	●	●					
<i>Mahonia nevinii</i>	Nevin Mahonia	yellow	6-10	6-12	U	M	L	PS	L	●	●	Rigid branches covered with gray-blue foliage. Adaptable; tolerates clay and alkaline		●	●	●	●					
<i>Mahonia pinnata</i>	California Holly Grape	yellow	4-5	4-5	U	M	L	PS	L	●	●	Reddish orange new growth.		●	●	●	●					
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	red/ pink/ white	varies		R	M	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.	
<i>Rhamnus californica</i> 'Little Sur'	Little Sur Coffeeberry	inconspicuous	3-4	3-4	R	M	L/M	FS-PS	M	●	●	Grey-green leaves, red bark, and showy berries in fall. Adaptable.			●	●	●				Partial shade inland	
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i> (incl cultivars)	Red-Flowering Currant	pink	6	6	U	F	L	PS	M	●	●	Red-pink showy flower clusters. Adaptable.		●	●	●	●					
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry	white	6	8	S	M	L/M	PS	M	●	●	Large white berries in the fall; berries are not edible. Adaptable.		●	●	●	●				Best with regular moisture	

GRASSES		DESCRIPTION					PLANTING & MAINTENANCE					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	SCWWD Plant List		Basin	Banks	Upland	Bioretention	Flow-Through Planter	Tree Well Filter	Green Roof*	Turf Block Pavers	
<i>Aristida purpurea</i>	Purple Three-Awn	white	2-3	2	U	F	VL	FS	L	●	●		●	●	●	●					
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> 'Blonde Ambition'	Blonde Ambition Blue Grama	chartreuse turning to blonde	1.5-2	1	M	M	L	FS	L	●	●		●	●	●	●					
<i>Calamagrostis x acutiflora</i> 'Karl Foerster'	Feather Reed Grass	light tan	2-3	2-3	U	F	L	PS	L	●	●			●	●	●					
<i>Carex divisa</i> (C. tumulicola)	Berkeley Sedge		2	2	U	F	L	FS to PS	L	●	●	●	●	●	●	●					Cannot tolerate standing water
<i>Carex pansa</i>	Dune Sedge		1	1	M	F	L/M	FS to PS	L	●	●	●	●	●	●	●					Sensitive to overwatering
<i>Chondropetalum elephantinum</i>	Large Cape Rush	brown	3-5	4-6	U	M	L/M	FS to PS	L		●	●	●	●	●	●					
<i>Chondropetalum tectorum</i>	Small Cape Rush	brown	2-3	3-4	U	M	L	FS	L		●	●	●	●	●	●					
<i>Festuca californica</i>	California Fescue		2	2	U	M	L	FS to PS	L	●	●		●	●	●	●					
<i>Festuca glauca</i> 'Elijah Blue'	Blue Fescue		>1	>1	R	F	L	PS	L		●		●	●	●	●					
<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	Blue Bunchgrass		1	1	R	F	L	FS to PS	L		●		●	●	●	●	●				Blue Bunchgrass listed as Idaho Fescue
<i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i>	Blue Oat Grass	light blue	1-2	1-2	U	M	L	PS	L		●		●	●	●	●					
<i>Juncus patens</i>	Californian Grey Rush	brown	2	1	U	M	L	FS to PS	L	●	●	●	●	●	●	●					
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deer Grass	yellow	4	4-6	R	M	L	FS	L	●	●		●	●	●	●					
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	Pink Muhly Grass	pink	4	3-4	R	M	L	PS	L		●		●	●	●	●					Pink Muhly Grass listed as Hairy awn Muhly
<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	Blue-Eyed Grass	blue, yellow	1-1.5	0.5	U	F	VL/L	FS to PS	L	●	●		●	●	●	●		●			Check notes
<i>Stipa pulchra</i>	Purple Needlegrass		4-6	4-6	U	F	L	FS	L		●	●	●	●	●	●					Check notes

GROUNDCOVERS & TURF ALTERNATIVES		DESCRIPTION					PLANTING & MAINTENANCE					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	
<b>GROUNDCOVERS</b>																					
<i>Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet'</i>	Emerald Carpet Manzanita	white	1-1.5	3-6	S	M	L	FS	L	●	●		●	●	●	●					Spreads best with even moisture
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry, Kinnikinnick	blood red	3-12	4-9	S	M	Low	FS	L	●	●		●	●	●	●					
<i>Baccharis pilularis 'Twin Peaks'</i>	Dwarf Coyote Brush	white	1-2	6-10	S	F	L/M	FS	M	●	●		●	●	●	●					
<i>Mahonia repens</i>	Creeping Oregon Grape	yellow	2.5'	3-5'	S	M	L/M	PS	M	●	●		●	●	●	●					
<i>Salvia sonomensis</i>	Creeping Sage	purple	2	6-8	S	M	L	FS	M	●	●		●	●	●	●			●		Prefers 6" growing medium
<i>Verbena peruviana</i>	Peruvian Verbena	scarlet, white	>1	2-3	S	M	L	FS	M		●		●	●	●	●					
<b>TURF ALTERNATIVES</b>																					
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Blue Gramma Grass		1.5-2	1	S	F	L	FS	L	●	●			●	●	●			●	●	
<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>	Buffalograss		<1	<1	S	F	VL	FS	L		●		●	●	●	●				●	
<i>Festuca rubra 'molate'</i>	Molate Fescue		1	-	S	F	M/L	FS/PS	M		●				●	●			●	●	
<i>Dymondia margaretae</i>	Dymondia, Silver Carpet	yellow	1-3"	1-2'	S	M	M/L	FS	L		●		●	●	●	●				●	
<i>Lippia nodiflora</i>	Kurapia	white	1"-3"	-	S	M	L	FS/PS	L		●		●	●	●	●			●		Prefers 6" growing medium
<b>PERENNIALS</b>																					
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	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Common Yarrow	white	3	2	S	F	L	FS	L	●	●		●	●	●	●			●		Maintenance challenges; longevity issues
<i>Achillea filipendulina</i>	Fern-Leaf Yarrow	golden	3-4	2-3	U	M	L	FS	M		●		●	●	●	●			●		
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Sea Pink	pink	1	1	M	S	L-M	FS	L		●		●	●	●	●			●		Maintenance challenges; longevity issues

<i>Anigozanthus spp.</i>	Kangaroo Paw	red, purple, green, yellow	to 6	to 3	U	F	L	FS	L			Attracts hummingbirds. Well-drained soils.		●	●	●	●			Unattractive if subject to freezing or standing water	
<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i>	Coreopsis	purple-blue	1.5-2.5	2-3	S	M	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.		●	●	●	●		●		
<i>Diets iridioides</i>	Fortnight Lily	pale yellow; light blue; white	up to 3	1-1.5	U	M	L	FS	L	●	●	Use as accent or massing, orchid-like flowers. Clay-tolerant.		●	●	●	●			Disruptive to planting/soil when pulled up and divided every 5 years	
<i>Echeveria spp.</i>	Hens and Chicks	pink	varies			M	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.		●	●	●	●		●		
<i>Epilobium bowman</i>	Bowman California Fuchsia	orange	varies	1.5-3	S	F	L	FS	L	●	●	Gray foliage; showy summer flowers; height varies by cultivar		●	●	●	●				
<i>Epilobium canum</i>	California Fuchsia	orange-red	varies	1.5-3	S	F	L	FS	L	●	●	Gray foliage; showy summer flowers; height varies by cultivar		●	●	●	●				
<i>Erigeron glaucus 'Wayne Roderick'</i>	Wayne Roderick Daisy	lavender	1	3	M	M	M	FS to PS	L	●	●	Blooms spring thru fall. Well-drained soil.		●	●	●	●				
<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	Santa Barbara Daisy	white with pink tinge	10-18"	2-3'	M	F	L-M	FS to PS	L	●	●	Small daisy-like flowers, feathery texture. Well-drained soil.		●	●	●	●			Reseeds	
<i>Eriogonum grande var. rubescens</i>	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	
<i>Eriogonum latifolium</i>	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.		●	●	●	●		●		
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California Poppy	orange	1.5	1.5-2	S	F	VL	FS	L	●	●	Reseeds easily; summer dormant. Well-drained soils.		●	●	●	●		●	Maintenance challenges; longevity issues	
<i>Gaillardia grandiflora</i>	Blanket Flower	varies	2-3	1-2	U	M	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	
<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	Douglas Iris	varies	1.5	1.5	S	M	L	PS	L	●	●	Well-drained soil.		●	●	●	●			Maintenance challenges; longevity issues	
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Sticky Monkey Flower	varies	3-4	3-4	M	M	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	
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus var. puniceus</i>	Red Monkey Flower	red	3-4	3-4	M	M	L	FS to PS	L	●	●	Well-drained soil.		●	●	●	●			Can be short-lived, 3 years; Maintenance challenges; longevity issues	
<i>Monardella villosa</i>	Coyote Mint	light purple	2	2	M	F	VL	FS to PS	L	●	●	Attracts butterflies, including Monarchs, Tiger Swallowtails Well-drained soil.		●	●	●	●		●	Prefers 6" growing medium; Maintenance challenges; longevity issues	
<i>Penstemon heterophyllus 'Blue Springs'</i>	Foothill Penstemon	Iridescent blue-purple	1-2	2	M	F	L	FS	M	●	●	Very tough plant. Tolerates full sun, heat, moist soils. Flowers attract butterflies, bees, hummingbirds.		●	●	●	●		●	Prefers 6" planting medium	
<i>Sedum sp. (many)</i>	Stone Crop	varies	varies			S	M	L	FS	L	●	●	Varied succulent species. Prefer well-drained soils. Many heat adapted and thrive in dry gardens, green roofs.		●	●	●	●		●	
<i>Tulbaghia violacea</i>	Society Garlic	pink	2	1	M	F	L	FS	L	●	●	Very dependable grass-like plant with pink flower atop 2' stalks. Distinctive garlic odor. Tolerates most soils.		●	●	●	●				
<i>Verbena lilacina</i>	De La Mina Lilac	purple	3	3	S	M	L	S to PS	L	●	●	Low, mounding perennial, attracts bees and butterflies.		●	●	●	●				

TREES		DESCRIPTION					PLANTING & MAINTENANCE					LANDSCAPE INTEREST/USES	TREATMENT 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 (V), 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	
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Western Redbud	D	10-18	10-18	R	S	L	FS	M	●	●	Deep pink early spring bloom; Use multi-trunk where possible; short lived. Clay-tolerant.	●	●	●	
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> (cultivars)	Crape Myrtle	D	15-25	8 to 15	R	S	L	FS	M		●	Attractive peeling cinnamon bark, excellent winter feature; spec cultivars: 'Muskogee', 'Natchez', 'Osage', 'Tuscarora'. Tolerates most soils; well-drained.	●		●	
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	Holley leaf Cherry	E	15	15	O	M	L	FS	L	●	●	Skinny branches with large leaves and cherry looking fruit; can be trained into a small tree. Adaptable to most soils.	●	●	●	
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> spp. <i>Lyonii</i>	Catalina Cherry Laurel	E	10	15	O	M	L	FS	L	●	●	Shiny green leaves with small white flowers. Adaptable to most soils.	●	●	●	