

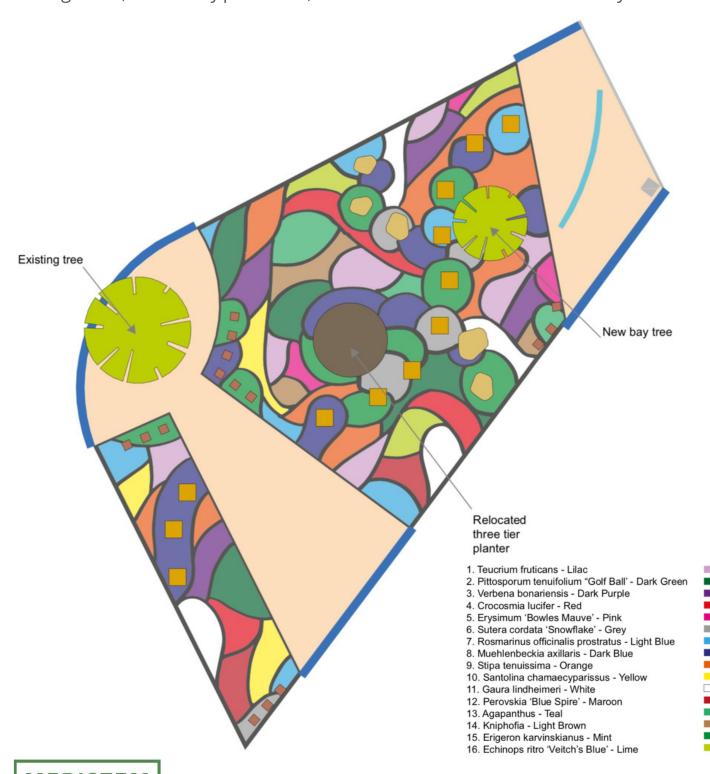


PLANT GUIDE

Turning the grey green®

CHOOSING PLANTS FOR THE RAIN GARDEN

Creating a successful Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) Rain Garden involves thoughtful selection of plants that not only enhance the aesthetic appeal but also contribute to the functionality and ecological balance of the system. The right combination of flowering plants, grasses, ground cover, shrubs, and trees plays a crucial role in achieving the goals of stormwater management, biodiversity promotion, and overall environmental sustainability.

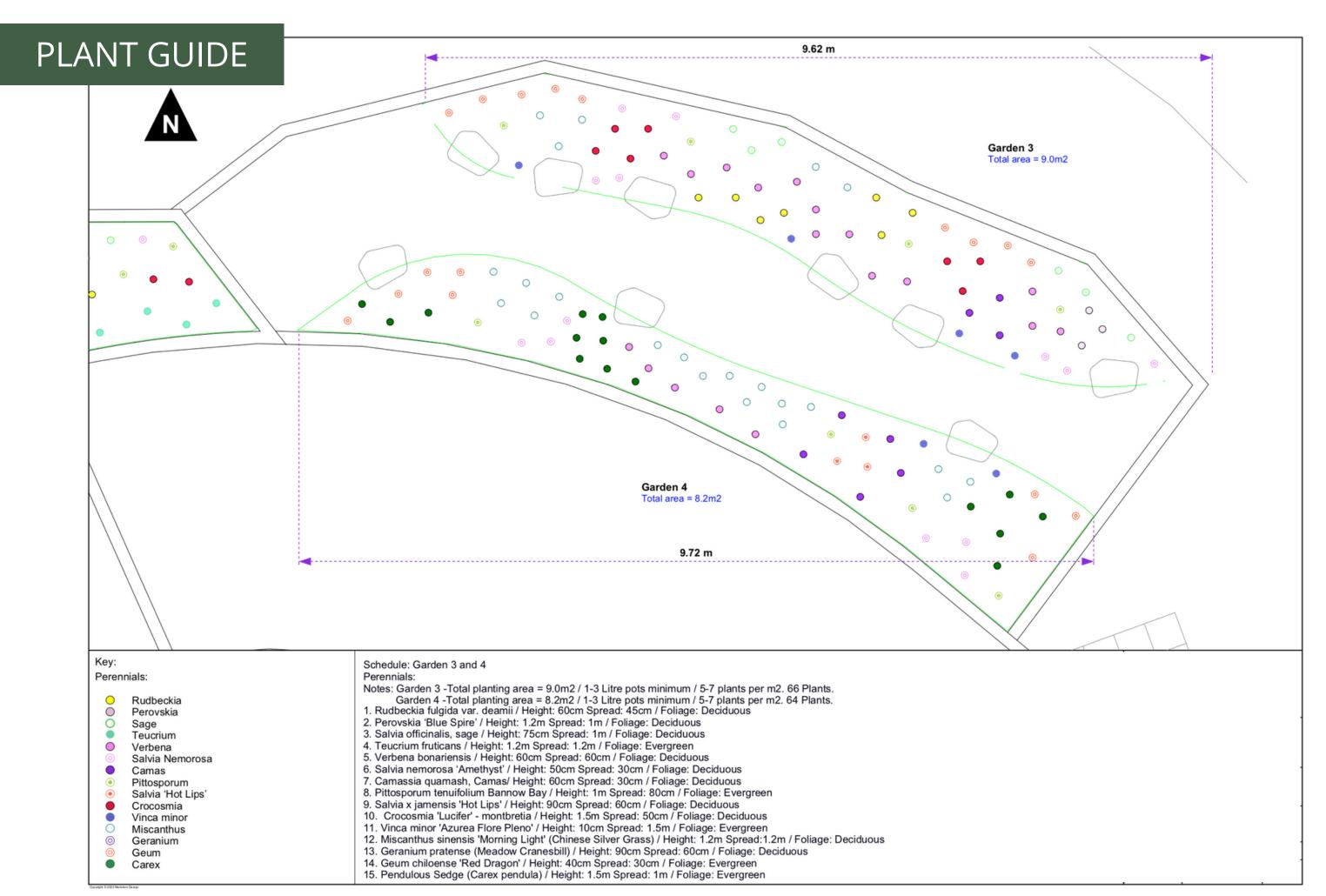


CONSIDERATIONS FOR PLANT SELECTION:

Ideally, the Rain Garden is designed as an integral part of the landscape design, choosing not only its location but also its shape and the plant species you use.

We recommend planting a variety of different species, known for their hardiness to both drought conditions and flash flooding. Species found in wetland conditions, as well as marginal species, can really benefit the space, coping well with large amounts of water in a short period of time. We also try to plant native species, which are well adapted to the climate, coping well with our seasons, as well as supporting local wildlife including birds, pollinating insects and other invertebrates.

- Adaptability to Moisture Levels: Plants need to tolerate both wet and dry conditions so choosing plants that can survive a variety of moisture conditions is essential.
- **Root System Characteristics:** Water absorption and erosion prevention are facilitated by deep-rooted plants, contributing to the overall health of the rain garden.
- **Biodiversity and Ecological Functionality:** A rich ecosystem is encouraged by aiming for a diverse plant palette.
- **Seasonal Interest:** Consideration of the colour, texture, and form of plants contributes to a visually pleasing and dynamic landscape.
- **Maintenance Requirements:** Plants with low maintenance needs should be chosen to ensure the longevity and efficiency of the rain garden.
- **Pollution Tolerance:** Plants with a tolerance for potential contaminants should be selected, given the rain garden's role in treating stormwater runoff. Some species, particularly effective at filtering pollutants, contribute to the water purification process.
- Local Regulations and Guidelines: Familiarity with local regulations and guidelines for planting in SuDS is essential.



Typology 1: Grasses, flowering herbs and ferns.

A broad range of flowering plants, grasses and ground cover that area suitable for SUDs planting.



ALCHEMILLA MOLLIS -GARDEN LADY'S-MANTLE

An herbaceous perennial forming a clump of softly hairy, light green leaves with scalloped and toothed edges. Small, bright yellow flowers.

Height: 60 cm



CAREX RIPARIA -GREATER POND SEDGE

A vigorously spreading rhizomatous perennial with linear, glaucous green leaves and tall stems bearing stout, erect, dark brown flowering spikes in early summer

Height: 125 cm





AGAPANTHUS AFRICAN LILY

Agapanthus have mounds of strappy, bright green leaves. Sturdy stems shoot up in summer carrying loosely spherical heads of trumpetshaped flowers.

Height: 1 m



CENTAUREA NIGRA -BLACK KNAPWEED

An upright, branching perennial, with simple or pinnately lobed leaves and thistle-like purple flowerheads to 4 cm across.

Height: 75 cm



ASTER × FRIKARTII 'MÖNCH'

'Mönch' is a vigorous, clumpforming perennial, with strong, well-branched stems. Bears loose clusters of longlasting flowers, in late summer and early autumn.

Height: 70 cm



CROCOSMIA 'LUCIFER'

A cormous, herbaceous perennial with a robust and very upright growing habit. It has mid-green, pleated blade-like leaves and arching deep red flower stems.

Height: 160 cm



CALAMAGROSTIS -FEATHER REED GRASS

'Karl Foerster' is a clumpforming deciduous perennial grass with flat, arching leaves, and bronze flowering panicles that fade to pale brown.

Height: 90 cm



CYNARA CARDUNCULUS - CARDOON

Huge, purple, thistle-like flowers from June to September held above enormous clumps of deeplycut, silvery-green leaves.

Height: 1.5 m



CAREX PRAIRIE FIRE -ORANGE NEW ZEALAND SEDGE

A dense, tufted, evergreen perennial grass with narrow bright green strap-like leaves tipped with bright orange. The foliage turns a darker orange in the autumn.

Height: 50 cm



ECHIUM VULGARE - VIPER'S BUGLOSS

An erect, bristly biennial to 75cm, with lance-shaped, hairy leaves and dense cylindrical spikes of bell-shaped violet-blue flowers in early summer.

Height: 100 cm



CAREX REMOTA - REMOTE SEDGE

Forms dense semi-evergreen tussocks of very thin, long, arching pale to bright green leaves. Drooping flower stems carry yellow-green flowers during early summer.

Height: 50 cm



EURYBIA × HERVEYI -ASTER TWILIGHT

Self-supporting, branching stems, carrying a profusion of light-blue daisy flowers, 5 cm across. Flowering late summer and autumn.

Height: 100 cm

www.meristemdesign.co.uk

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ERYNGIUM - SEA HOLLY

A herbaceous perennial with strongly toothed eaves and branching violet-blue stems bearing cone-like flowerheads surrounded by narrow, spiny, metallic-blue bracts

Height: 90 cm



HEMP AGRIMONY

A vigorous upright perennial with reddish stems, leaves palmately-divided into narrow leaflets, and clusters of tiny pink or purple flowers in late summer and early autumn.

Height: 100 cm





GERANIUM PHAEUM -MOURNING WIDOW

An erect, clump-forming perennial with lobed leaves often with brownish markings, and flat, outwardfacing dusky purple, lilac or white flowers 2cm wide in late spring.

Height: 50 cm



HYSSOPUS OFFICINALIS

A compact, spreading, semievergreen sub-shrub with erect shoots bearing aromatic, linear leaves and terminal spikes of tubular blue flowers in summer and early autumn.

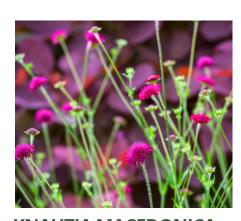
Height: 50 cm



GERANIUM ROZANNE

A vigorous spreading perennial with neat, dense, lobed leaves and saucershaped violet-blue flowers 5cm wide, opening from early summer to early autumn.

Height: 60 cm



KNAUTIA MACEDONICA - MACEDONIAN SCABIOUS

A clump-forming perennial with simple or lobed stem leaves, with a succession of deep crimson pincushion-like flowerhead 3-4cm across, from mid to late summer.

Height: 80 cm



GEUM 'MRS J.BRADSHAW'

'Mrs J. Bradshaw' is a clumpforming herbaceous perennial, with hairy, dark green, basal leaves and purple stems bearing semidouble, rich scarlet flowers.

Height: 60 cm



LAVANDULA ANGUSTIFOLIA - ENGLISH LAVENDER

'Hidcote' is a bushy dwarf evergreen shrub with narrow, silvery-grey leaves and small deep violet-purple flowers in dense, aromatic spikes 3-4cm in length.

Height: 50 cm



HAKONECHLOA MACRA - JAPANESE FOREST GRASS

Perennial grass producing mounds of bright green leaves topped by airy sprays of green flowers in mid- to late summer. Leaves develop red-brown tints in autumn.

Height: 50 cm



MISCANTHUS SINENSIS - EULALIA MORNING LIGHT

'Morning Light' is a compact deciduous perennial with narrow leaves finely edged with white, and pink-tinged panicles of flowers in autumn.

Height: 150 cm



HELENIUM LOYSDER WIECK - SNEEZEWEED

Sun-loving perennials are tough, hardy and easy to grow. They combine particularly well with grasses and other late-flowering perennials plantings.

Height: 100 cm



MUEHLENBECKIA - MAIDENHAIR VINE

Forming lots of thin, wiry stems, which are clothed in small dark green leaves, this fast-growing deciduous plant can be grown as either groundcover or a climber.

Height: 2 m

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OSMUNDA REGALIS -ROYAL FERN

A robust deciduous fern forming a large clump of fronds, bearing rusty-brown spore-bearing pinnae at the tips; foliage turns attractive red-brown in autumn.

Height: 150 cm



SANGUISORBA MINOR -SALAD BURNET

A herbaceous perennial with pairs of toothed leaflets which form a rosette. Knobbly clusters of crimson flowers, blooming from early summer through to autumn.

Height: 50 cm





PEROVSKIA ATRIPLICIFOLIA 'BLUE SPIRE' - RUSSIAN SAGE

A small deciduous sub-shrub, with white stems. Small violet-blue flowers in large plumy panicles in late summer and autumn.

Height: 120 cm



SANTOLINA CHAMAECYPARISSUS -LAVENDER-COTTON

S. chamaecyparissus is a dwarf evergreen shrub with narrow, silvery-woolly, much dissected leaves and long-stalked, button-like bright yellow flowerheads.

Height: 50 cm



PHORMIUM - NEW ZEALAND FLAX

Phormiums are exoticlooking evergreen perennials. They offer striking, often highlycoloured sword-like leaves and slender flower spikes.

Height: 2 m



STIPA GIGANTEA -GOLDEN OATS

S. gigantea is a robust tufted evergreen grass to 2m, with arching linear green leaves and large panicles of oat-like, long-awned purplish flowers which ripen to gold.

Height: 200 cm



SALVIA OFFICINALIS

S. officinalis is a bushy, spreading evergreen shrub, with very aromatic, finely veined, grey-green leaves and short spikes of pale blue flowers in early summer.

Height: 75 cm



STIPA TENUISSIMA -MEXICAN FEATHER GRASS

S. tenuissima is a deciduous grass, forming a compact upright tuft of thread-like leaves, with narrow, arching, feathery flowering panicles in summer.

Height: 60 cm



SALVIA ROSMARINUS -ROSEMARY

A bushy shrub with a dense, leafy habit. Flowers usually pale violet-blue and white. Flowering starts in spring but is often repeated at different times of year.

Height: 150 cm



VERBENA BONARIENSIS LOLLIPOP - PURPLE TOP 'LOLLIPOP'

'Lollipop' is a dwarf cultivar. It is a short-lived perennial with rough stems and leaves, and dense clusters of small, purple flowers in summer and autumn.

Height: 60 cm



SALVIA VERBENACA -EYE-SEED

A mound forming perennial with mid-green coarse textured foliage and slender spikes with whorls of violet-blue lipped flowers in summer found in wild meadows.

Height: 50 cm

Typology 2: Shrubs

Shrubs are of greatest value to wildlife and have other positive impacts on filtering dust and pollution from streets.



BRACHYGLOTTIS COMPACTA 'SUNSHINE'

'Sunshine' is a small, spreading evergreen shrub with greyish, white-felted beneath like the flowers stalks. Bright yellow flowers 2.5cm in width, in loose clusters.

Height: 150 cm



CONVOLVULUS CNEORUM

Silverbush A small spreading evergreen shrub,, with narrowly oblong, very silvery leaves and funnel-shaped white flowers tinged pink in bud, up to 4cm in width

Height: 60 cm



HEBE 'MRS WINDER'

A spreading evergreen small shrub with narrow, dark green leaves, the youngest tinged with reddish-brown. Flowers small, violet-blue, in racemes to 7cm in length

Height: 75 cm



PITTOSPORUM TENUIFOLIUM BANOWAY BAY

Compact well branched mound forming Pittosporum with colour changing foliage starting off light green with a cream edge and changing through late summer.

Height: 1 m



TEUCRIUM FRUTICANS

Tree germander -

T. fruticans is an evergreen shrub with white hairy stems bearing small, dark green leaves, white beneath, and light blue flowers 2.5cm long in summer.

Height: 150 cm

