

Iowa List of Recommended Plants for Rain Gardens, Biocells, Bioswales

Recommended Plants for Iowa Rain Gardens, Biocells, and Bioswales		BMP Use				Sun Exposure			Soil Moisture				Location in BMP			Height				Blooming Period										Comments	Salt Tolerance RDW=Roadway, BC=Biocell
Common Name	Botanical Name	Roadway	Rain garden	Biocell	Bioswale	Full sun	Part shade	Shade	Wet	Moist	Mesic	Dry	Bottom	Sides	Top of bank	6"-12"	12"-24"	24"-36"	>36"	April	May	June	July	August	September	October					
Native Forbs (Flowers)																											May apply to other BMPs				
Anemone, Canada	Anemone canadensis	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x						Will spread	Tolerant-BC			
Aster, Lance Leaf	Symphotrichum lanceolatum			x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x				x	x	x				x	x	x			Tolerant-RDW			
Aster, New England	Symphotrichum novae-angliae	x		x	x	x	x			x			x				x	x						x	x	x		Tolerant-RDW			
Aster, Silky	Symphotrichum sericeum		x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							x	x			Tolerant-RDW			
Aster, Smooth Blue	Symphotrichum laeve	x	x	x		x							x			x								x	x	x		Tolerant-RDW			
Aster, Upland White	Solidago ptarmicoides				x	x	x			x														x	x	x		Tolerant-RDW			
Beardtongue, Foxglove	Penstemon digitalis	x		x	x	x	x		x	x			x					x				x	x					Tolerant-RDW			
Beardtongue, Large Flowered	Penstemon grandiflora	x	x	x	x	x	x						x				x	x		x	x							Tolerant-RDW			
Bergamot, Wild (bee-balm)	Dalea candida			x	x	x	x			x	x	x						x	x				x	x	x			Tolerant-RDW			
Blazingstar, Prairie	Liatris pycnostachya	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x			x								x	x	x			Tolerant-BC			
Blazingstar, Rough (Button)	Liatris aspera	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x					x						x	x	x			Tolerant-RDW			
Bluebells, Virginia	Mertensia virginica		x	x				x	x		x									x	x										
Bluestar, Common	Amsonia tabernaemontana	x				x	x			x							x	x		x	x							Tolerant-BC			
Catchfly, Royal	Silene Digia		x	x	x	x	x			x	x						x	x						x	x			Can be a more sensitive plant			
Clover, Purple Prairie	Dalea purpurea	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x								x	x	x				Tolerant-RDW			
Clover, White Prairie	Dalea candida	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x										x	x							
Columbine, American	Aquilegia canadensis	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	x	x					x	x							Will spread			
Coneflower, Gray-headed Prairie	Ratibida pinnata	x		x	x	x	x		x	x			x					x				x	x	x	x			Tolerant, RDW			
Coneflower, Orange	Rudbeckia fulgida	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x					x						x	x	x	x					
Coneflower, Pale Purple	Echinacea, pallida			x	x	x				x	x						x	x						x	x	x					
Coneflower, Purple	Echinacea purpurea	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	x	x			x	x					x	x	x		Tolerant-RDW			
Coreopsis	Coreopsis palmata		x	x	x	x	x			x	x		x				x	x					x	x	x						
Coreopsis, Lance Leaf	Coreopsis lanceolata		x	x	x	x				x	x		x	x	x		x						x	x	x						
Culvers Root	Veronicastrum virginicum		x	x	x	x	x			x	x							x	x					x	x			Tall but does not flop			
False Sunflower (Ox-eye)	Heliopsis helianthoides			x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x					x						x	x	x					
Gentian, Bottle	Gentiana andrewsii	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	x	x										x	x					
Gentian, Cream	Gentiana flavida		x	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	x	x										x	x					
Geranium, Wild	Geranium maculatum		x	x	x		x			x	x		x	x	x					x	x							Will spread			
Ginger, Wild	Ascarum canadense		x	x				x		x	x		x	x	x	x				x	x							Will spread; very unique flower			
Golden Alexander	Zizia aurea	x		x	x	x	x			x			x					x	x					x	x			Tolerant-RDW			
Goldenrod, Showy	Solidago speciosa	x			x	x				x	x	x	x					x							x	x	x				
Goldenrod, Stiff	Solidago rigida	x			x	x				x	x	x	x					x							x	x	x		Tolerant, RDW		
Harebell	Campanula Rotundifolia		x	x	x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x								x	x	x	x					
Hyssop, Anise	Agastache foeniculum			x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x					x	x	x		Will spread			
Indigo, White Wild	Baptisia alba	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x						x					x	x			Bush-like, tall for a rain garden			
Indigo, Wild Blue	Baptisia australis	x	x	x	x	x	x				x		x					x				x	x					Bush-like, tall for a rain garden			
Iris, Blue Flag	Iris virginica shrevei		x	x	x	x			x	x				x				x						x	x			Prefers moist conditions			
Ironweed	Vernonia fasciculata	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x						x					x	x	x					
Jacobs Ladder	Polemonium reptans		x	x	x	x	x	x		x			x				x	x	x	x	x							Will spread			
Leadplant	Amorpha canescens	x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x				x						x	x						
Lobelia, Great Blue	Lobelia siphilitica		x	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	x	x									x	x	x	x	Will spread			
Loosestrife, Winged	Lythrum alatum					x				x	x	x	x	x				x	x					x	x	x	x				
Loosestrife, Prairie	Lysimachia quadriflora		x	x	x	x				x	x		x												x	x		Prefers moist conditions			
Milkvetch, Canada	Astragalus canadensis			x	x	x	x				x	x												x	x	x					
Milkweed, Butterfly	Asclepias tuberosa	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x		x									x	x	x	x	Tolerant-RDW			
Milkweed, Common	Asclepias syriaca	x		x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x					x					x	x	x					
Mint, Virginia Mountain	Pycnanthemum virginianum	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x									x	x	x					
Monkey Flower	Mimulus ringens		x	x	x	x	x			x			x	x										x	x	x					
Obedient Plant	Physostegia virginiana	x				x	x			x	x		x											x	x	x	x	Tolerant-RDW			
Onion, Nodding	Allium cernuum		x	x	x	x	x				x		x	x	x	x	x								x	x					
Onion, Wild	Allium textile			x	x	x					x	x	x	x	x	x								x	x						
Partridge Pea	Chamaecrista fasciculata	x																										Tolerant-RDW, BC			
Petunia, Wild	Ruellia humilis		x	x	x	x				x	x		x	x										x	x	x		Spreads; grows well along the edge			
Phlox, Prairie	Phlox pilosa	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	x	x									x	x	x					
Phlox, Woodland	Phlox divaricata		x	x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x								x	x						
Prairie Smoke	Geum triflorum			x	x						x	x	x	x	x	x								x	x						
Primrose, Common Evening	Oenothera biennis	x			x	x	x				x	x												x	x	x	x				
Rattlesnake Master	Eryngium yuccifolium	x			x	x				x	x	x						x	x	x					x	x					
Rue, Purple Meadow	Thalictrum dasycarpum			x	x	x				x	x		x												x	x					

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Shooting Star	<i>Dodecatheon pulchellum</i>	x	x			x	x			x	x	x		x			x						x	x	x			May apply to other BMPs	
Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	x		x	x	x			x	x			x				x	x	x					x	x	x		Tolerant-RDW	
Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum multiflorum variegatum</i>		x				x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x			x	x								
Spiderwort, Ohio	<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x			x	x					x	x	x					Will spread; may bloom again in fall	Tolerant-RDW, BC	
Spiderwort, Prairie (Bracted)	<i>Tradescantia bracteata</i>		x	x	x	x				x	x		x	x						x	x	x							
Susan, Black-eyed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x					x	x					x	x	x	x	Early successional		
Susan, Brown-eyed	<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>		x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x				x	x	x				x	x	x	x	Early successional	Tolerant-RDW	
Sweet William, Wild	<i>Phlox Maculata</i>		x	x	x	x	x			x	x		x					x	x				x	x					
Trefoil, Showy Tick	<i>Desmodium canadense</i>			x	x	x					x	x	x	x			x	x	x				x	x	x				
Turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>		x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x				x	x	x						x	x			
Vervain, Blue	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x		x		x						x	x	x			Tolerant-RDW	
Vervain, Hoary	<i>Verbena stricta</i>	x		x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x					x	x	x			Tolerant-RDW	
Native Grasses, Wildrye, Sedges and Ferns																													
Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	x			x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x				x								> 48" tall; spreads	Tolerant-BC	
Blue Grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x		x											Can use for turfgrass		
Fern, Cinnamon	<i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i>			x			x	x	x	x				x			x	x	x										
Fern, Lady	<i>Athyrium Filix-femina</i>		x	x			x	x		x	x		x	x			x	x	x										
Fern, Maidenhair	<i>Adiantum</i>			x				x		x			x		x		x												
Fern, Ostrich	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>		x				x	x	x	x			x					x	x										
Grass, Bottlebrush	<i>Elymus Hystrix</i>	x	x	x			x	x			x								x										
Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum</i>		x		x	x				x	x		x																
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x			x		x											Tolerant-RDW, BC	
Prairie Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x										Tolerant-RDW	
Sedge, Bicknell	<i>Carex bicknellii</i>		x	x		x	x				x		x	x	x	x													
Sedge, Bur Reed	<i>Carex sparganioides</i>		x	x			x	x		x			x	x	x		x	x									Shade conditions	Tolerant-BC	
Sedge, Brown Fox	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x				x										Tolerant-BC	
Sedge, Common Fox	<i>Carex stipata</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x				x										Tolerant-BC	
Sedge, Common Wood	<i>Carex blanda</i>		x					x	x	x			x	x	x	x											Shade conditions		
Sedge, Eastern Star	<i>Carex radiata</i>	x				x			x	x								x									Shade conditions	Tolerant-BC	
Sedge, Eastern Woodland	<i>Carex blanda</i>		x	x			x		x	x			x				x												
Sedge, Woolly	<i>Carex pellita</i>		x			x	x		x	x			x				x	x	x								Could potentially be used as turf		
Sideoats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x		x											Tolerant-RDW	
Switch Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x				x								Some species can be too tall, floppy	Tolerant-RDW, BC	
Wildrye, Canada	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	x		x	x	x	x						x				x	x	x									Tolerant-RDW	
Wildrye, Virginia	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	x		x	x	x	x						x				x	x	x									Tolerant-RDW	
Horticultural Cultivar Flowers and Ferns																													
Astilbe, Chinese	<i>Astilbe chinensis 'Pumila'</i>		x	x			x	x		x	x		x		x	x	x						x	x					
Balloon Flower	<i>Platycodon</i>		x	x			x	x			x	x		x		x							x	x					
Beebalm Hybrids	<i>Monarda</i>		x	x			x	x			x	x		x		x							x	x	x				
Columbine Hybrids	<i>Aquilegia hybrids</i>		x	x	x						x	x																	
Coneflower, Purple	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>		x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x		x		x	x					x	x	x				
Coralbells Hybrids	<i>Heuchera</i>		x	x			x	x	x					x	x									x	x	x			
Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsisideae</i>		x	x			x	x			x		x		x		x							x	x	x		Deadheading extends bloom period	
Hosta Hybrids	<i>Hosta</i>		x	x				x					x		x	x	x	x						x	x				
Iris, Siberian	<i>Iris sibirica</i>		x	x			x	x			x	x		x		x	x	x					x	x					
Lilly, Stella De Oro Day	<i>Hemerocallis 'Stella de Oro'</i>		x	x			x	x			x	x		x		x							x	x	x	x			
Nepeta, Walker Low "catmint"	<i>X faassenii</i>	x					x				x	x					x						x	x	x		Can get 2nd bloom if cut back 1st bloom	Salt tolerant	
Sedum, Autumn Joy	<i>Sedum</i>		x	x			x				x	x	x		x		x							x	x	x			
Spike Gay Feather	<i>Liatris apicata</i>		x	x	x	x	x				x	x		x	x								x	x					
Yarrow, Paprika, Terracotta	<i>Achillea hybrids</i>		x	x			x										x	x					x	x					
Ornamental Grasses																													
Fountain Grass	<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>	x	x	x			x				x	x	x					x											
Karl Foerster	<i>Calamagrostis acutiflora cultivars</i>		x	x	x		x						x					x	x										
Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x			x	x								Shorter growing cultivars are available	Tolerant	