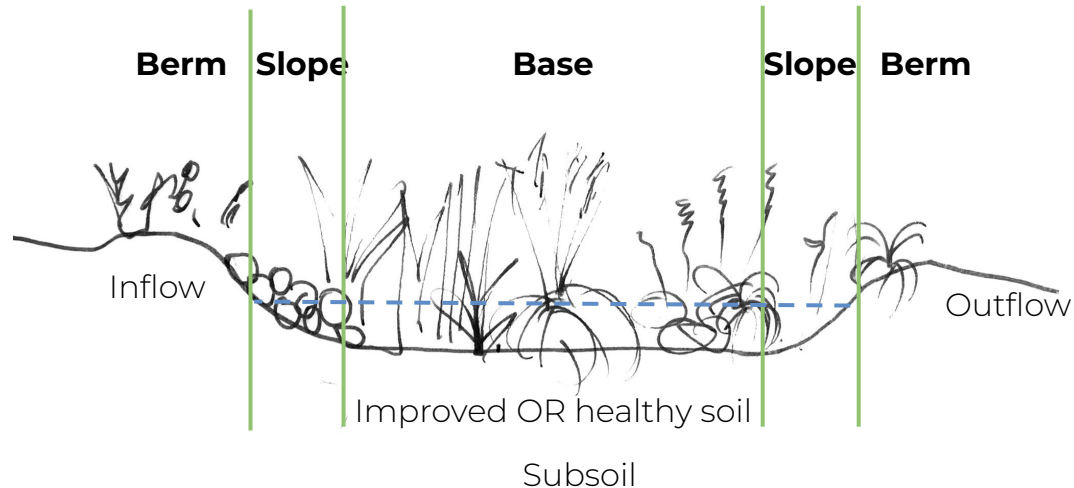


Rain Garden - Choosing Plants Principle 1

Right plant in the right place

Soil moisture

- Profile of a Rain Garden by soil moisture



Also wetter near inflow → drier towards outflow



Berm: dry, use drought tolerant plants.

Slopes: occasional inundation, use drought tolerant plants which can withstand short periods of inundation.

Base: wetter but will dry out between rain; use plants that tolerate frequent waterlogging and short periods of drought.

Rain Garden - Choosing Plants Principle 2

Right plant in the right place

Aspect

- A rain garden in **full or part sun** gives more choice of plants.
- Sunny sites have a higher rate of evapotranspiration.
- Rain gardens in **part or full shade** are also possible,
 - Some UK native plants would be suitable for use on the slope of a shadier rain garden:
 - Primrose - *Primula vulgaris*.
 - Stinking hellebore - *Helleborus foetidus*.
 - Anemone nemorosa - wood anemone.
 - *Dryopteris affinis* , *Polystichum setiferum* ferns..
 - All of the above have an 'Award of Garden Merit' from the RHS

Rain Garden - Choosing Plants Principle 3

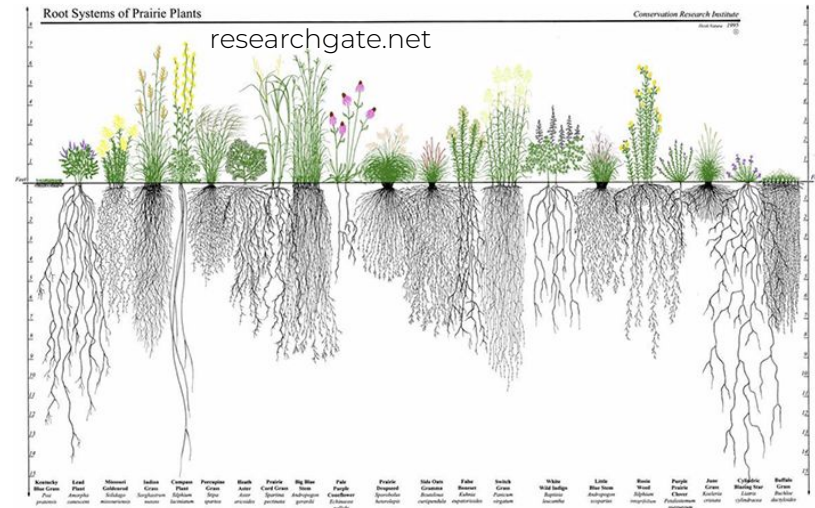
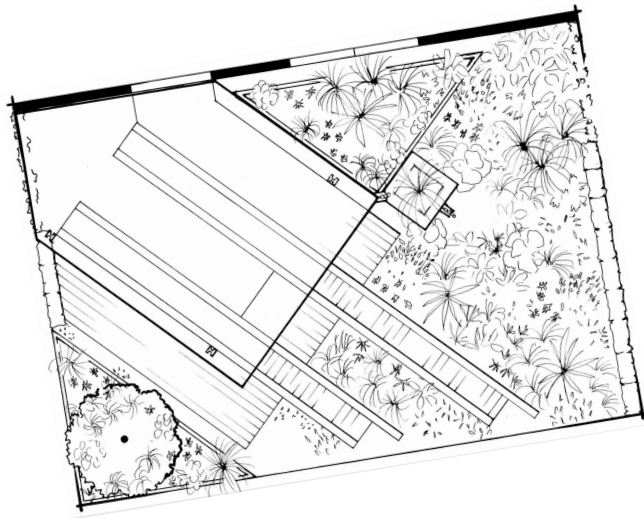
- **Include a high proportion (50-60%) of evergreen perennials for winter root structure.**
- *Cornus alba* 'Sibirica' is a deciduous shrub, but keeps its roots (the stems also give great winter interest to a rain garden - plus biodiversity benefit of autumn berries and spring blossom.



Rain Garden - Choosing Plants 4 - Roots!

Consider design from the roots up, not just the top down.

- A dense root coverage is essential to soil health = optimum infiltration.
- A mix of plants with an upper storey and a ground cover layer ensures good root coverage and adds complexity to a scheme.
- Complexity of planting = greater biodiversity.
- 'Matrix not monoculture', see Claudia West plant communities.
- **Fill gaps between plants with other plants, not mulch!**



Hit or Miss? (Try a Pinterest search)



Bioretention Facility: In-ground (Infiltration) planter to ...
www.pinterest.com



Bioretention - What Does It Do? How Does It Work ...
bluegrasslawn.com



Landscape | Central Coast Low Impact Develo...
www.pinterest.com



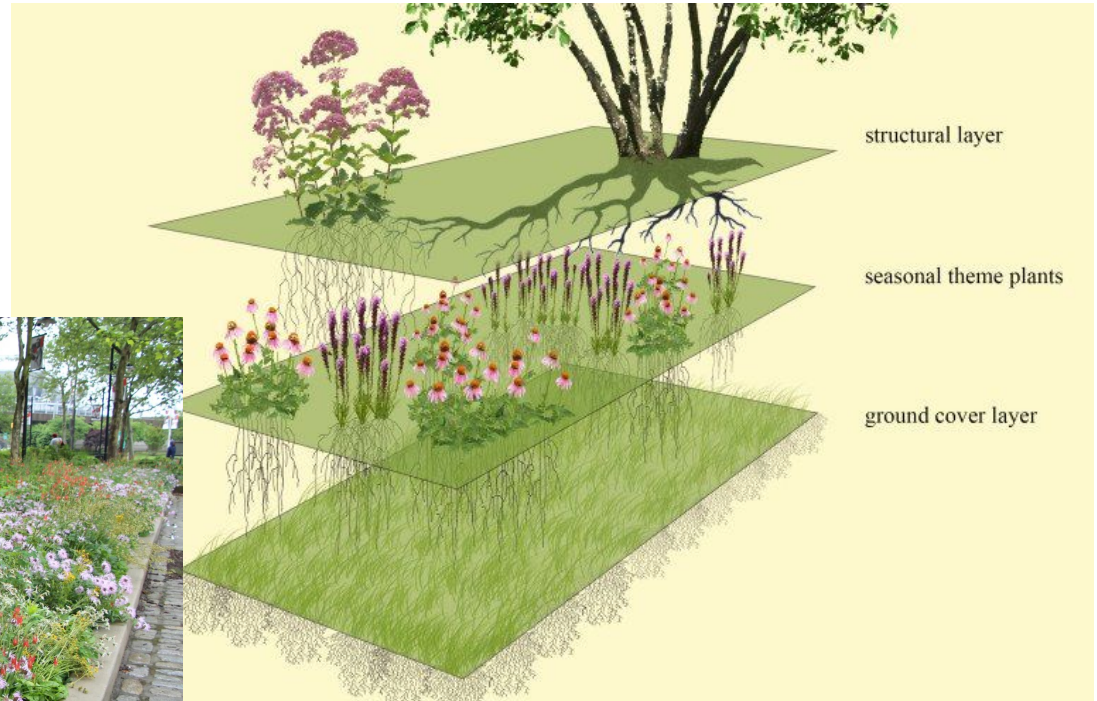
Bioretention Facility: In-ground (Infiltration) planter to ...
www.pinterest.com

Key Rain Garden Planting Design 4 - Roots!

Claudia West

PhytoStudio

Planting in a Post-Wild World





Tried and Tested

Tried and Tested Rain Garden Plants

Juncus inflexus on base of rain garden



**Geum 'Totally
Tangerine' near top
of slope**

**Knautia macedonica
Devil's Bit Scabious on
slope**

**Carex 'Ice Dance on slope
and towards base of rain
garden**

Liriope muscari in part shade of walkway on higher ground

Tried and Tested Rain Garden Plants

Left: *Deschampsia cespitosa* will tolerate most soil conditions and aspects and is a useful semi-evergreen grass. **Right:** *Salvia 'Caradonna'* adds a splash of summer colour in sun higher up the slope.



Tried and Tested Plants: For Berm

Dry, drought tolerant

Geranium 'Rozanne'
(long flowering blue,
berm or slope)



Vinca minor, any
(EG, a neat
long-flowering
ground cover, berm,
all aspects)



Image: bethchatto.co.uk

Salvia 'Caradonna'
(Summer purple
spikes, berm)



Image: bethchatto.co.uk





Liriope muscari 'Big
Blue' (EG, upper
slope or berm, sun to
part shade. late
flowering)



Image: bethchatto.co.uk





Tried and Tested Plants: For Slope

Mostly dry, occasional inundation

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Carex 'Ice Dance' (EG, seems to do well in any position or aspect, good spreading ground cover)</p> |  | <p>Cornus sanguinea 'Midwinter Fire' (Native form, winter stems, slope, sun)</p> |  <p>Image: bethchatto.co.uk</p> |
| <p>Geum 'Totally Tangerine' (Semi EG, May-Nov orange flowers, slope, sun)</p> |  <p>Image: bethchatto.co.uk</p> | <p>Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm' (Exuberant late flowering N. Americal perennial, slope, sun. Goes well with blue Aster 'Monch')</p> |  |

Tried and Tested Plants: For Inlet and Base

Frequently wet or inundated, but periodic drought

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p><i>Iris pseudacorus</i> (EG, native flag iris, inlet and base, sun)</p> |  <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Image: bethchatto.co.uk</p> | <p><i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> 'Goldtau', 'Schottland' or 'Mill End' (Native form, EG, base or slope, sun or part shade)</p> |  |
| <p><i>Carex Everlime</i> (EG, base or slope) Or native <i>Carex divulsa</i>, <i>Carex elata</i> Aurea</p> |  | <p><i>Juncus inflexus</i> (EG, native rush, inlet and base, sun)</p> |  <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Image: Knoll Gardens</p> |

Tried & Tested Plants Summary List

Iris pseudacorus (EG, native flag iris, inlet and base, sun)

Juncus inflexus (EG, native reed, inlet and base, sun)

Deschampsia cespitosa 'Goldtau', 'Schottland' or 'Mill End' (Native form, EG, base or slope, sun or part shade)

Carex Everlime (EG, base or slope)

Cornus sanguinea 'Midwinter Fire' (Native form, winter stems, slope, sun)

Carex 'Ice Dance' (EG, seems to do well in any position or aspect)

Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm' (Exuberant late flowering N. American perennial, slope, sun)

Geum 'Totally Tangerine' (Semi EG, May-Nov orange flowers, slope, sun)

Liriope muscari (EG, upper slope or berm, sun to part shade)

Salvia 'Caradonna' (Summer purple spikes, berm)

Geranium 'Rozanne' (long flowering blue, berm or slope)

Vinca minor (EG, a neat long-flowering ground cover, berm, all aspects)

EG = Evergreen

**Bonus useful
grasses, both
tolerant of a wide
range of soil
conditions:
Molinia 'Overdam'
(native),
Calamagrostis hirta**