

KC Pollinator Raingarden

This is a raingarden using native plants from the central Midwest that are attractive to butterflies and pollinators. It is designed to fit in small yards and use plants of short to medium height. This rain garden contains enough plants to cover about 50 square feet: Either a 6 x 8 ft rectangle or 7 x 9 ft oval.

Design by David Dods
www.WaterConservationConnection.com
 March 2018



Plants are sorted by their moisture preferences. Put plants that like moist conditions in the lowest parts of the garden, ones that like average moisture on the sides, and ones that like dry conditions at the top edges.

Number of plants	Common name	Latin name	Notes	Height (in)	Spacing (in)	Moisture	Sun / Shade	Bloom	
								Color	Month
Lowest Part of Garden with Most Moisture									
13	Palm sedge	<i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	This sedge is a grass-like plant that likes moist locations. It will also tolerate drying. It has attractive palm-shaped foliage and greens up early in spring. Host plant for some skipper butterfly caterpillars.	12 - 24	12 - 18	ave - moist	sun - shade		June - Aug
1	Marsh milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Great nectar plant and a favorite milkweed of monarch butterfly caterpillars. Plant can get fairly large and a bit gangly, but it has beautiful flowers. Don't be surprised if caterpillars strip plant of foliage in late summer.	48 - 60	24 - 36	ave - moist	sun - med shade	pink	Aug - Sept
Average Moisture Conditions (sideslopes)									
2	Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Very attractive to butterflies and pollinators. Goldfinches will eat seeds in the fall. This coneflower spreads aggressively by seed drop so don't be afraid to weed out seedlings in second and following years.	30 - 40	18 - 24	ave - moist	sun - med shade	purple	June - Aug
4	Foxglove beardtongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	This flower provides early season blooms and a nectar source for bees. Upright flower stems with attractive white tubular flowers.	30 - 48	16 - 20	ave - moist	sun - light shade	white	May - June
Average to Dry Conditions (sideslopes to edges)									
9	Little bluestem (grass)	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	A taller grass for the back border of the garden. This is my favorite native grass. It has attractive copper color in fall and winter so it provides great four season color. Leave it standing through the winter. Host to skipper butterflies.	24 - 48	12-18	ave - dry	sun - light shade		Aug
3	Rough blazingstar	<i>Liatris aspera</i>	A great fall nectar source and blooms when the monarchs migrate. It gets a bit lanky so works best when propped up between grasses or other sturdy plants.	24 - 48	12 - 16	ave - dry	sun - light shade	purple	Sept
4	Dotted blazingstar	<i>Liatris punctata</i>	A short blazingstar for dry locations that tolerates very dry conditions. Attractive short plant good for borders. Popular with pollinators and good late summer nectar source. A fun Latin name rolls off your tongue.	12 - 16	12	ave - dry	sun	purple	August
8	Downy phlox	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	Early season color and nectar source. Forms mounds of pink flowers. Spreads over time to fill in around larger plants. A short flower for the front edge of garden.	12 - 18	12 - 16	average	sun - med shade	pink	April - May
44	Total # of Plants								



Palm Sedge



Marsh milkweed



Purple coneflower



Foxglove beardtongue



Little bluestem



Rough blazingstar



Dotted blazingstar

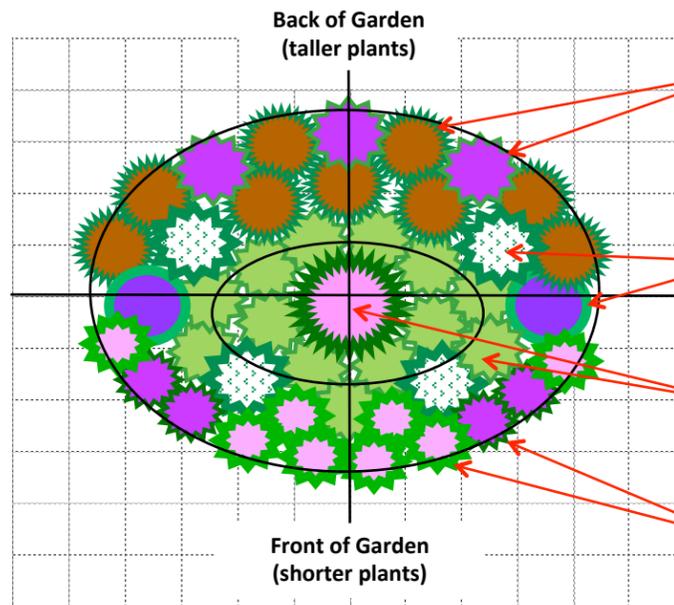


Downy phlox

KC Pollinator Raingarden - Planting Plan

Raingarden using native plants to attract butterflies and pollinators. Plants native to Kansas City and the Central Midwest.

Design by David Dods
www.WaterConservationConnection.com

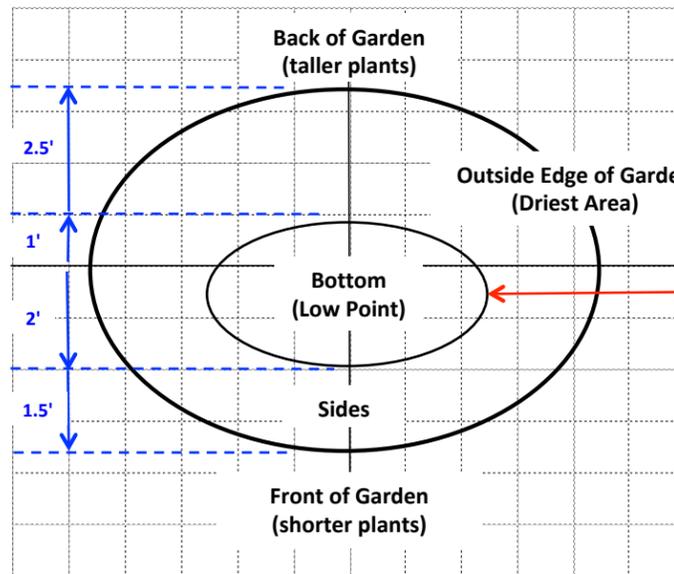


Little bluestem and Rough blazingstar are taller plants so use them as the back border. The grasses will help prop up the flowers. They also like drier conditions so make sure the bottom/low part of the garden is in front of them and they are located up on the sideslope to edge. Note how the low part of the garden is a little more towards the front to make more room for these plants.

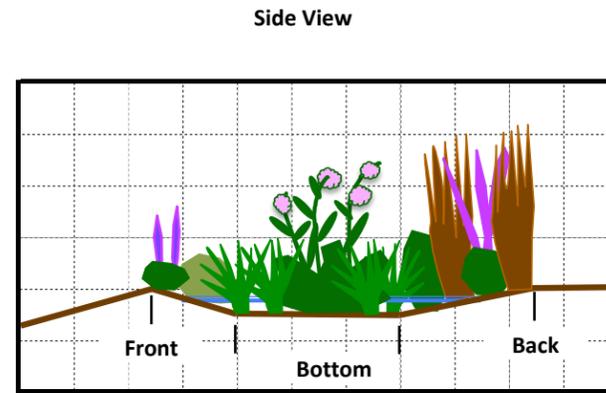
The coneflower and beardtongue like average to moist conditions so they go on the sideslopes where the water only gets a few inches deep.

The Marsh milkweed and Palm sedge like moist conditions so they go in the lowest, wettest part of the garden.

The Downy phlox and Dotted blazingstar are short so they go in the front. They also like dry conditions so place them towards the edge.



Note how the low part of the garden is pushed a little towards the front to make more room for the Little bluestem and Rough blazingstar along the back edge.



Plant Key		Number
Bottom Center of the Garden (wettest spot)		
	Palm sedge	13
	Marsh milkweed	1
Sideslopes (average to dry)		
	Purple coneflower	2
	Foxglove beardtongue	4
Outside Edge of the Garden (dry areas)		
	Little bluestem	9
	Rough blazingstar	3
	Dotted Blazing star	4
	Downy phlox	8
Total number of plants		44

This rain garden contains enough plants to cover about 50 square feet: a 6 x 8 ft rectangle or 7 x 9 ft oval.
 Each square on the drawing is 1 ft x 1 ft