

Plant Selection and Care

Residential Rain Garden Training

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THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
OUTREACH CENTER
RHODE ISLAND NEMO



Plant Selection for Rain Gardens

Landscape Design Process

Topography
Percent Impervious Cover
Soil texture

Plant Hardiness Zone
Sun exposure
Wind exposure

Soil
Rain Garden size
Space constraints & limitations

Site Assessment

Plant Selection for Rain Gardens

Should always be based on relevant Site Assessment findings!

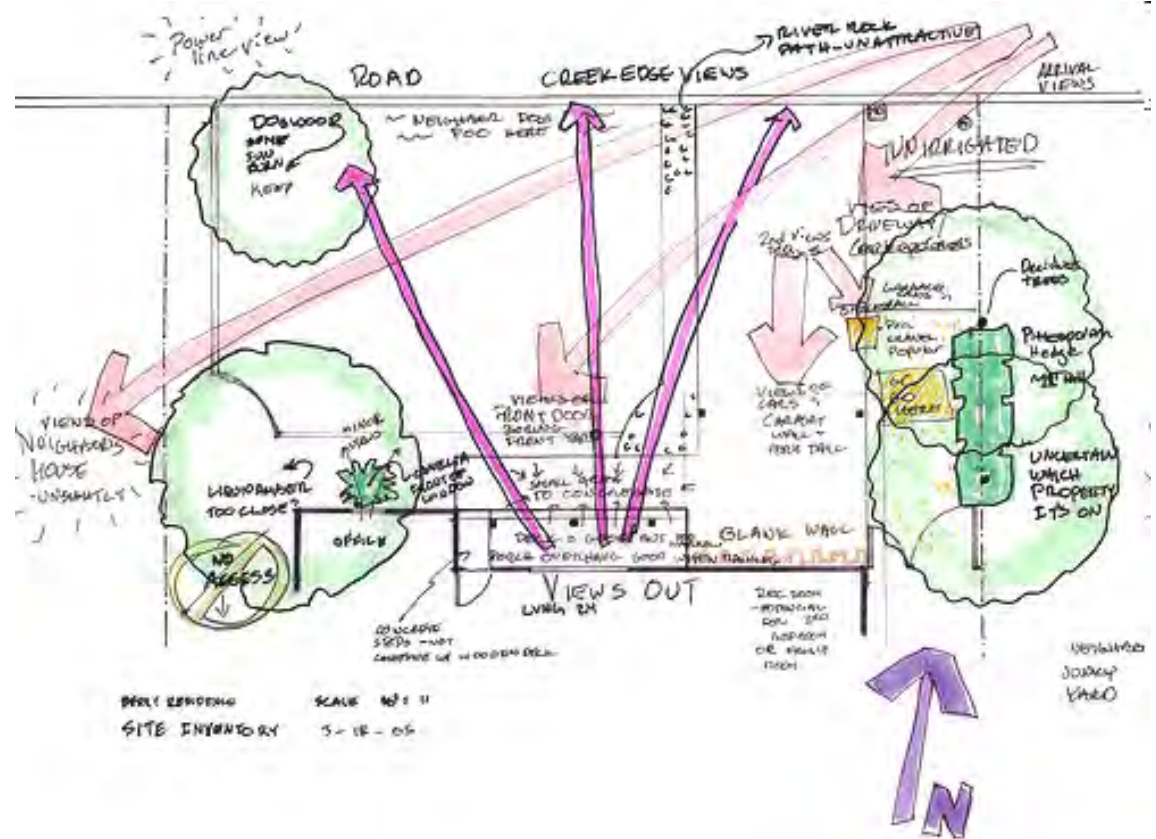
What is Site Assessment?

*An approach for identifying and analyzing the existing **natural**, **built** and **social** characteristics in the landscape and their relationship to each other...*

Site Assessment for Plant Selection

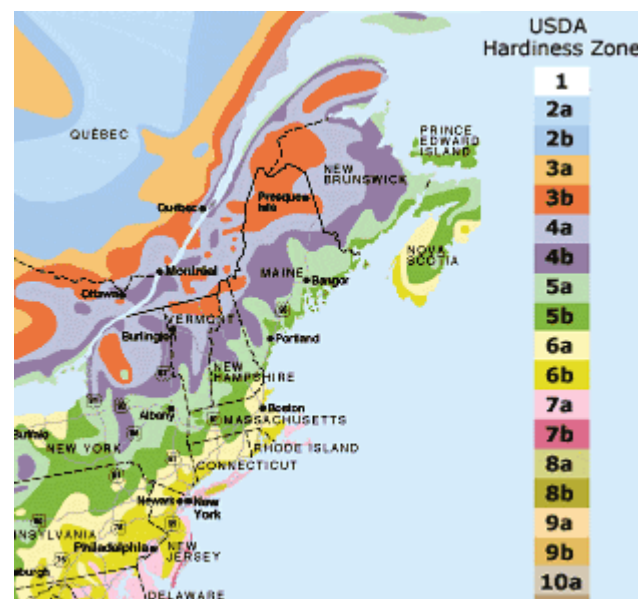
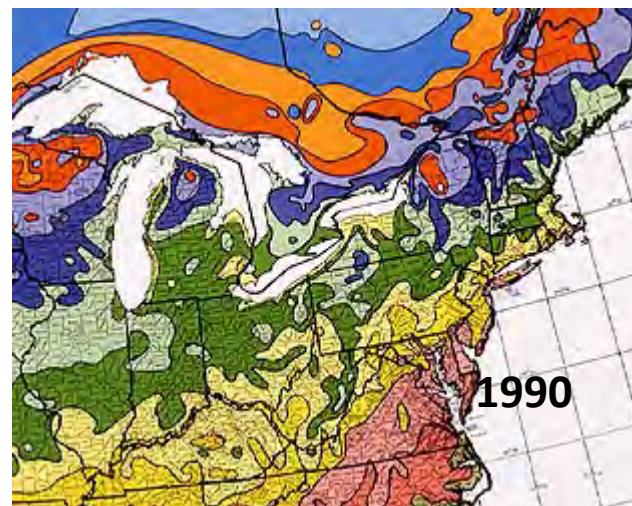
Why do Site Assessment?

1. Pick the right plant for the right spot for the right function
2. Save time & money / save your client money
3. Billable hours!



Site Assessment Considerations for Plant Selection

- **Plant Hardiness Zone**
 - Map provided by USDA
 - Rhode Island = Zone 5, 6 or 7, depending on location
 - Climate change is causing lines to move north...
 - <http://www.hardiness-zone-map.com>
(interactive – enter zip code)
 - USDA Map Update coming any day...



Site Assessment Considerations for Plant Selection

- **Sun exposure**

- Many plants suitable for rain gardens prefer full sun
 - Full sun = > 6 hrs direct sunlight/day
 - Partial sun = < 6 hours of direct or filtered sunlight/day

- **Wind exposure**

- Prevailing winds?
- Significant vs. insignificant
- More of an issue in coastal areas

- **Soil**

- Test pH
- Incorporate leaf litter compost

- **Space constraints**

- Horizontal?
 - Square footage limit
- Vertical?
 - Utilities? Existing canopy?

Site Assessment Considerations for Plant Selection

- **Rain Garden Size**

- How much space is there for plants?

- Spread x Quantity = ft / plant

- How much coverage is desired?

- Total? Partial?

Latin Name	Common Name	Purchase Size	Level	Mature Size	Quantity
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild columbine	1 gallon	mid	1.5' x 1.5'	15
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i> 'Hummingbird'	Sweet pepperbush	3 gallon	bottom	3' x 3'	6
<i>Dicentra eximia</i> 'Alba '	Wild Bleeding Heart	1 gallon	bottom	1.5' x 1.5'	10
<i>Ilex glabra</i> 'Shamrock'	Inkberry	3 gallon	mid	4' x 3'	6
<i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Red Sprite'	Winterberry	3 gallon	mid	4' x 4'	3
<i>Itea virginica</i> 'Henry's Garnet'	Virginia sweetspire	3 gallon	mid	4' x 6'	3
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal flower	1 gallon	bottom	3' x 2'	12
<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Lowbush Blueberry	1 gallon	bottom	2' x 2'	15
					70

RI Coastal Plant Guide

RHODE ISLAND COASTAL PLANT GUIDE

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50 of 231 Species

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[Select from dropdown list to filter plant list by attributes]

Species	Common Name	Zone	Plant Type	Native Status	Full Sun	Shade Tolerant	Drought Tolerant	Wet Sites	Wind Tolerant	Na: Spray Tolerant	Na: Soil Tolerant	Acid Tolerant	pH Adapt	Rain Gardens	Dune Plant	Height	Width	Availability
<i>Abies concolor</i>	White fir	2	Tree	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	>10'	15-30'	8,10,22,67,74,77,57
<i>Achillea</i> sp.	Yarrow	2	Per.	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	2-6'	-	28,10,12,22,24,67,74,77,35,51
<i>Aesculus flava</i> (A. octandra)	Yellow Buckeye	2	Tree	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	>10'	-	10,67
<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Ohio Buckeye	2	Tree	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	>10'	20-40'	10,67,74
<i>Aesculus x carnea</i>	Red Horsechestnut	2	Tree	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	>10'	-	10,67,57
<i>Alnus incana</i> ssp. <i>rugosa</i>	Speckled Alder	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	>10'	6-12'	10,74
<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	Common Alder	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	>10'	6-12'	-
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Serviceberry	1	Tree	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	>10'	15-25'	10,67,74,57
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> !	Shadbush	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	>10'	variable	8,10,22,52,74,77,100,57
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Allegheny Serviceberry	1	Tree	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	>10'	15-25'	8,10,67,74,77,57
<i>Amelanchier stolonifera</i>	Running Serviceberry	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	2-6'	variable	22,67
<i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>	American Beach Grass	1	Grass	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	2-6'	-	10,12,22,35,67,74,77
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Bluestem	1	Grass	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	6-10'	2'	10,12,35,67,74,100
<i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>	Bushy Bluestem	2	Grass	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<2'	-	8,10,12,35,67
<i>Andropogon ternarius</i>	Split-beard Bluestem	2	Grass	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	2-6'	2-3'	67
<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>	Broomsedge	1	Grass	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	2-6'	1-2'	12,67
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	<2'	variable	8,10,22,24,41,52,67,74,77,100
<i>Artemisia stelleriana</i>	Dusty Miller	1	Per.	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	2-6'	36"	2,8,10,12,22,24,67,74,77
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Milkweed	2	Per.	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	2-6'	2'	8,10,12,22,24,67,74,77
<i>Astilbe</i> sp.	Astilbe	2	Per.	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	2-6'	-	2,8,10,12,22,24,67,74,77,35,51
<i>Atriplex</i> sp.	Salt Bush	1	Shrub	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	<2'	6'	-
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	Groundsel-bush	1	Shrub	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	>10'	5-12'	10,74
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Blue Wild Indigo	1	Per.	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	2-6'	3-4'	8,10,12,22,24,67,74,77,100
<i>Baptisia sphaerocarpa</i>	Yellow Wild Indigo	2	Per.	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2-6'	3-4'	12,22,67,77
<i>Baptisia tinctoria</i>	False Indigo	1	Per.	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	2-6'	2-3'	10,22,67,77
<i>Betula populifolia</i>	Gray Birch	2	Tree	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	>10'	10-20'	10,22,67
<i>Calamagrostis x acutiflora</i> 'Karl Foerster'	Feather Reed Grass	2	Grass	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<2'	5-7'	28,10,12,22,24,52,67,74,77

STEP 1: Set 'Native Status' to +

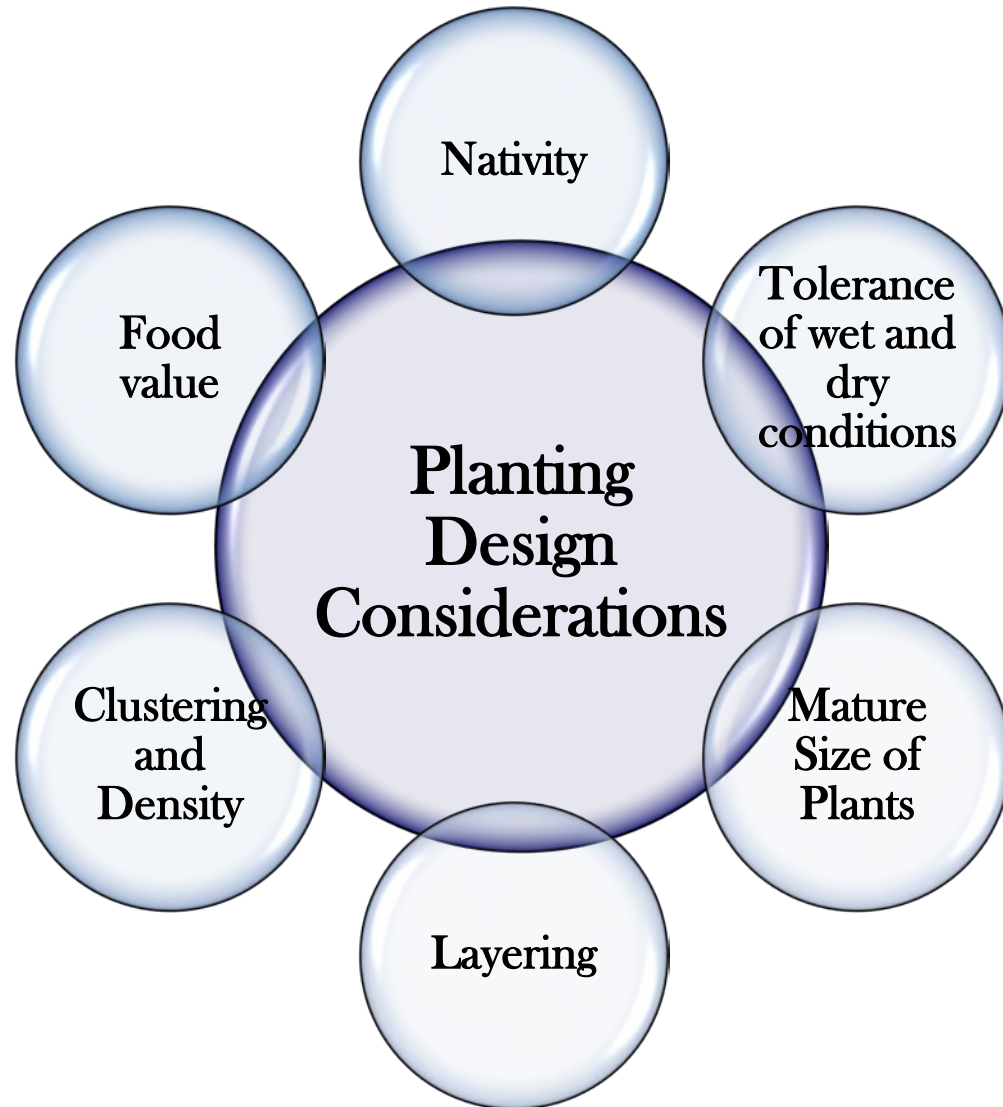
STEP 2: Set 'Rain Garden' to +

Plant Selection for Rain Gardens

- Use Site Assessment information to navigate the RI Coastal Plant Guide

Inventory Checklist #	Site Assessment Checklist Description	Corresponding Plant Guide Field
3a	Soil pH range	Acid Tolerant / pH Adapt (Adaptable)
3b	Predominant Texture = Clay or Silt	Wet Sites
3b	Predominant Texture = Sand or Loam	Rain Gardens
7	Sources of concentrated flow (downspouts, etc.)	
4b	Prevailing Wind Direction	Wind Tolerant
5	Microclimate	Drought Tolerant, Wind Tolerant, Salt Tolerant
6	Full sun	Full Sun
6	Full Shade	Shade Tolerant

The Planting Design Process



Nativity

What is a native plant?

One that lives or naturally in a particular region without direct or indirect human intervention.



Nativity

Why Specify Native Plants?

- Adapted to soil and temperature conditions
- Tolerate microclimate conditions
- Tolerate harsh rain garden conditions (sometimes dry, sometimes wet)
- Require less inputs (i.e. fertilizer, water)
- Resistant to most pests and disease
- Attract other natives (i.e. migratory birds, beneficial insects and butterflies)

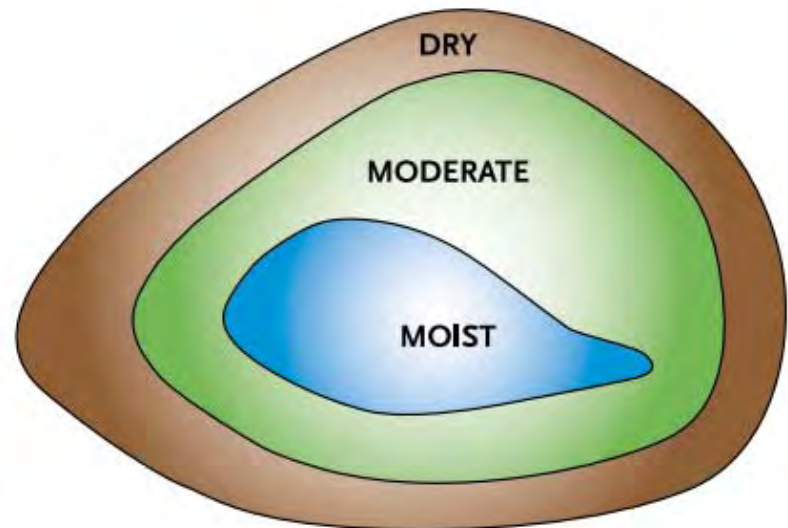
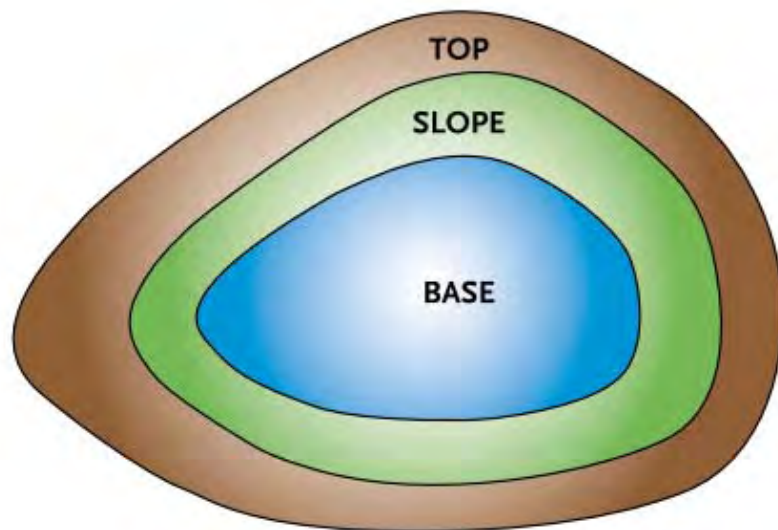
BOTTOM LINE: They're easy and we need them!

Tolerance of wet and dry conditions

RAIN GARDEN DICTIONARY:

Zones of wet and dry conditions

- **Moist:** plant prefers moist soil and tolerates dry soil other times of the year.
- **Moderate:** plant can tolerate moist and dry soils equally.
- **Dry:** plant tolerates and even thrives in dry soil during most of the year.



Tolerance of wet and dry conditions

MOISTURE TOLERANT SHRUBS

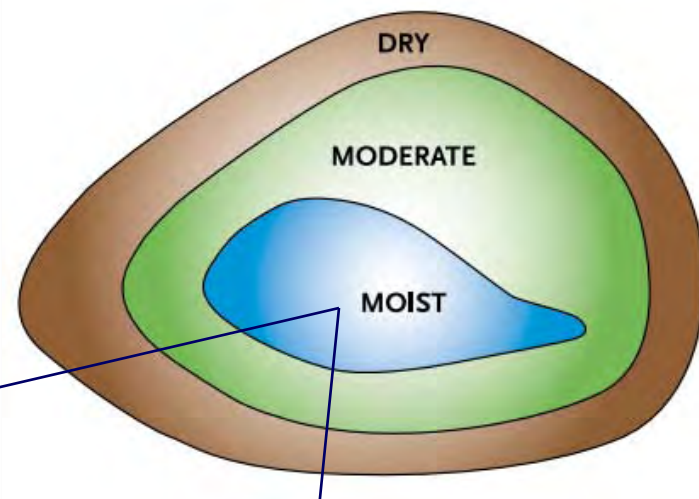
Amelanchier canadensis - Shadbush
Cephalanthus occidentalis - Common Buttonbush
Clethra alnifolia - Sweet Pepperbush
Comptonia peregrina - Sweet fern
Cornus amomum - Silky Dogwood
Cornus racemosa - Gray Dogwood
Cornus sericea - Redosier Dogwood
Ilex glabra - Inkberry Holly
Ilex verticillata - Winterberry Holly
Ledum groenlandicum - Labrador Tea
Lindera benzoin - Spicebush
Photinia melanocarpa - Black Chokeberry
Photinia pyrifolia - Red Chokeberry
Rhododendron viscosum - Swamp Azalea
Vaccinium corymbosum - Highbush Blueberry
Viburnum dentatum - Arrowwood

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Native Status +

Wet Sites +

Rain Garden +



MOISTURE TOLERANT PERENNIALS

Carex stricta - Tussock Sedge (grass)
Eupatoriadelphus dubius - Coastal Plant Joe Pye Weed
Eupatoriadelphus maculatus - Spotted Trumpet Weed
Eupatorium perfoliatum - Hibiscus moscheutos
Iris versicolor - Blue Flag Iris

Tolerance of wet and dry conditions

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Species	Common Name	Zone	Plant Type	Native Status	Full Sun	Shade Tolerant	Drought Tolerant	Wet Sites	Wind Tolerant	Na: Spray Tolerant	Na: Soil Tolerant	Acid Tolerant	pH Adapt	Rain Gardens	Dune Plant	Height	Width
<i>Alnus incana ssp. rugosa</i>	Speckled Alder	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	>10'	6-12'
<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	Common Alder	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	>10'	6-12'
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> !	Shadbush	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	>10'	variable
<i>Amelanchier stolonifera</i> !	Running Serviceberry	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	2-6'	variable
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Sweet Pepperbush	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	6-10'	4-6'
<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	Sweet Fern	2	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	2-6'	4-8'+
<i>Cornus amomum</i> !	Silky Dogwood	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	6-10'	6-10'
<i>Cornus racemosa</i> !	Gray Dogwood	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	6-10'	variable
<i>Cornus sericea</i> !	Redosier Dogwood	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	6-10'	7-9'
<i>Eubotrys racemosa</i>	Swamp Doghobble	2	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	2-6'	4-6'
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry Holly	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	6-10'	8-10'
<i>Ilex verticillata</i> !	Winterberry Holly	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	6-10'	6-10'
<i>Lyonia mariana</i>	Stagger-bush	2	Shrub	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	2-6'	-
<i>Morella (Myrica) gale</i>	Sweet Gale	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	2-6'	2-4'
<i>Photinia floribunda</i>	Purple Chokeberry	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	>10'	5'
<i>Photinia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	2-6'	10'
<i>Photinia pyrifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	>10'	5'
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Common Ninebark	1	Shrub	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	6-10'	6-8'
<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Swamp Azalea	2	Shrub	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	6-10'	3-8'
<i>Rosa carolina</i>	Carolina Rose	1	Shrub	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	2-6'	5-6'
<i>Spiraea latifolia</i>	Meadowsweet	1	Shrub	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	2-6'	6-8'
<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	Steeplebush	1	Shrub	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	2-6'	4-6'
<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i> !	Lowbush Blueberry	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	<2'	24"
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> !	Highbush Blueberry	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	>10'	8-12'
<i>Vaccinium pallidum</i>	Blue Ridge Blueberry	2	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	<2'	2'
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i> !	Arrowwood	1	Shrub	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	>10'	6-15'

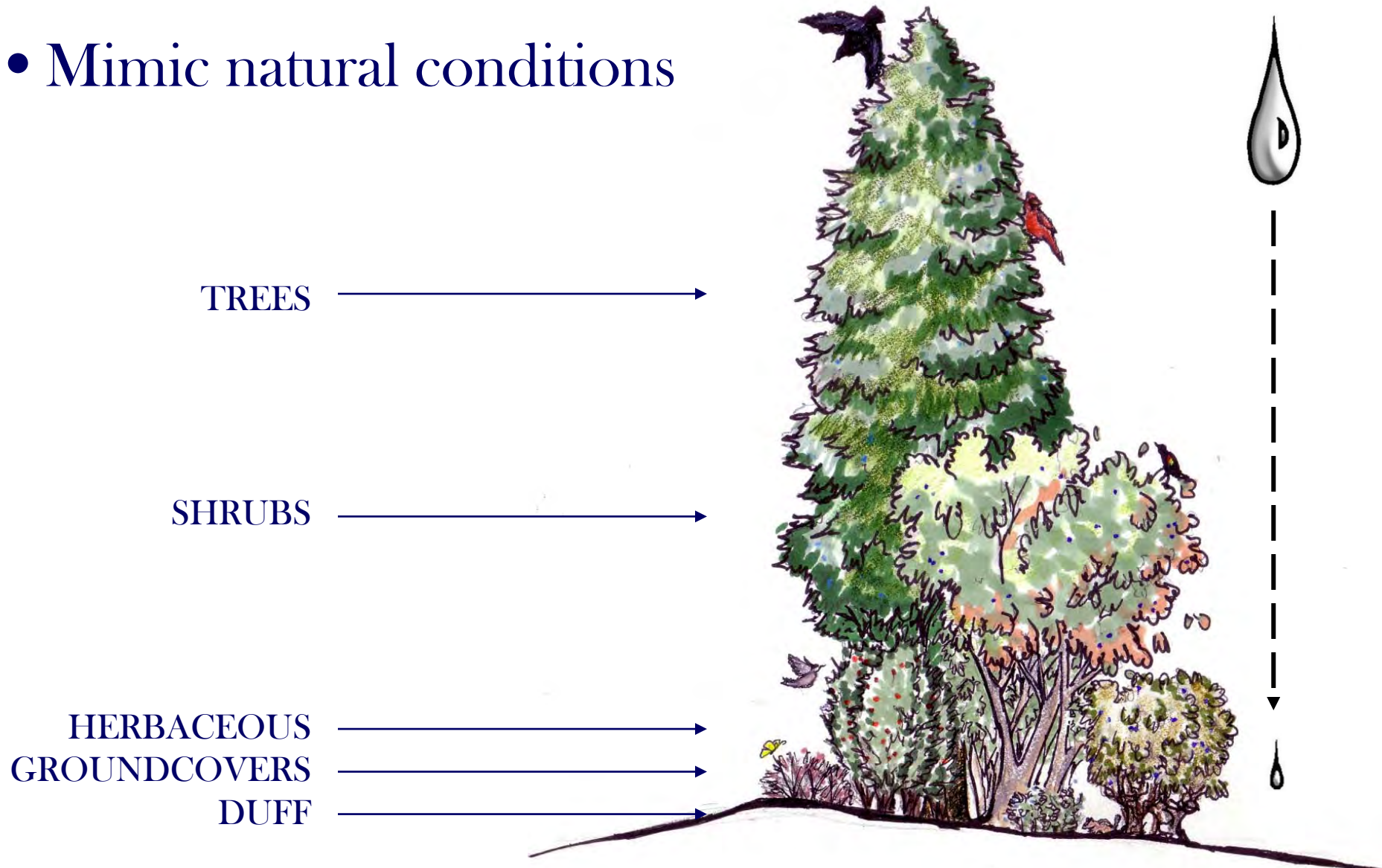
Mature Size of Plants

1. *Clethra alnifolia*
'Hummingbird'
2. *Ilex verticillata*
'Red Sprite'
3. *Vaccinium angustifolium*
4. *Itea virginica*
'Henry's Garnet'
5. *Ilex glabra*
'Shamrock'



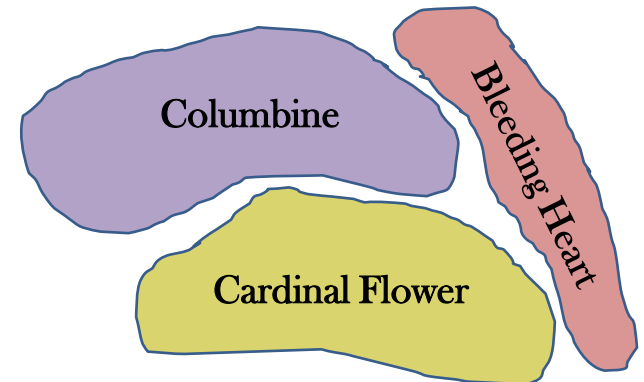
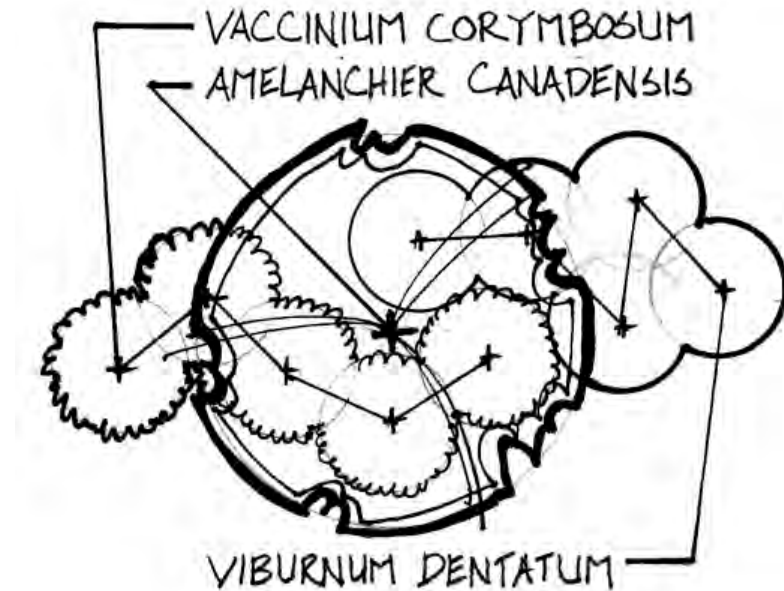
Layering

- Mimic natural conditions



Clustering and Density

- Incorporate diverse groups of overlapping native plants of varying heights and shapes
- Combine evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs with herbaceous and groundcover species for a variety of layers and age classes of plants
- Site like species adjacent to each other to create 'swaths'



Food Value for Migratory Songbirds

- Incorporate native plants whose nutritional value meet the needs of migratory songbirds
- Species diversity is necessary to satisfy their dietary requirements



Food Value for Migratory Songbirds

Common Name	Scientific Name	Nutrient Content ¹		
		Fat	Carbohydrate	Protein
Highly recommended and preferred by migratory songbirds:				
Arrowwood Viburnum	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	High	High	Low
Pokeweed	<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	Low	High	Adequate
Virginia Creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Moderate	High	Adequate
Shadbush	<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>	Low	High	Adequate
Highbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Low	High	Low
Recommended and eaten by many migratory songbirds:				
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Low	High	Low
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Low	High	Low
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	High	Moderate	Adequate
Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	Moderate	Moderate	Adequate
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	High	Moderate	Low
Red osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>		N/A	
Alternate-leaf Dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>		N/A	
Silky Dogwood	<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Low	High	Adequate
Blackhaw Viburnum	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Low	Moderate	Low
Hobblebush	<i>Viburnum lantanoides</i>	Low	High	Low
Mapleleaf Viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	Low	Low	Low
Cranberrybush Viburnum	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>		N/A	
Common Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Low	High	Adequate
Red Elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Moderate	Low	Adequate
Fox Grape	<i>Vitis labrusca</i>	Low	High	Adequate
Blackberries, Raspberries	<i>Rubus spp.</i>	Low	High	Low
Late Low Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Low	High	Low
Recommended and eaten by a few migratory songbirds:				
Northern Bayberry	<i>Myrica pennsylvanica</i>	High	High	Low
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Low	High	Low
Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Low	High	Low

“The availability of high-quality and abundant food resources, like wild fruits, in coastal regions of the eastern U.S. is critical for successful migration and long-term conservation of songbirds...”

*~Dr. Scott McWilliams
University of RI*

Food Value for Beneficial Insects & Butterflies

- Why?
 - They feed on pest insects such as aphids, caterpillars, leaf beetle larva, spider mites and whiteflies
 - It's easy because they are wanderers always in search of a meal!
- How?
 - Incorporate species diversity, plants with varying heights and shapes, different bloom times and nectar and pollen producers



Loutitt Library

Rain Garden Plant List

- (3) herbaceous species
- (4) shrub species
- (2) vegetative layers
- 1-6 foot plant height
- White, blue and yellow flower



Latin Name	Common Name	Purchase Size	Mature Size	Quantity
<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Maidenhair fern	1 gallon	1-1.5'	10
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> -OR- <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> 'Corbett'	Wild Columbine	1 gallon		10
<i>Aster dumosus</i> -OR- <i>Aster dumosus</i> 'Wood's Blue'	Hardy Aster	1 gallon	1-3'	10
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	2 gallon	3-6' x 3-6'	3
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i> 'Hummingbird'	Sweet pepperbush	3 gallon	3' x 3'	3
<i>Ilex glabra</i> 'Shamrock'	Inkberry	3 gallon	4' x 3'	6
<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Lowbush Blueberry	1 gallon	2' x 2'	30

Rain Garden Models

Native Plant System Model 5

Site Inventory Considerations:

Parent community: Maritime or Coastal Shrubland

Site Conditions: Wet to intermittent, pollutants, compacted soils, bottom of sloped area prone to erosion, full sun, Coastal Zone 1

Lot type: Large (0.5 acre or larger), adjacent to critical area or wetland, steeply sloped, and / or upland

Coverage Considerations:

Total approximate coverage = 500 ft²

Design Considerations:

Color: Complementary color scheme; white, orange, and blue flowers

Form: Curvilinear

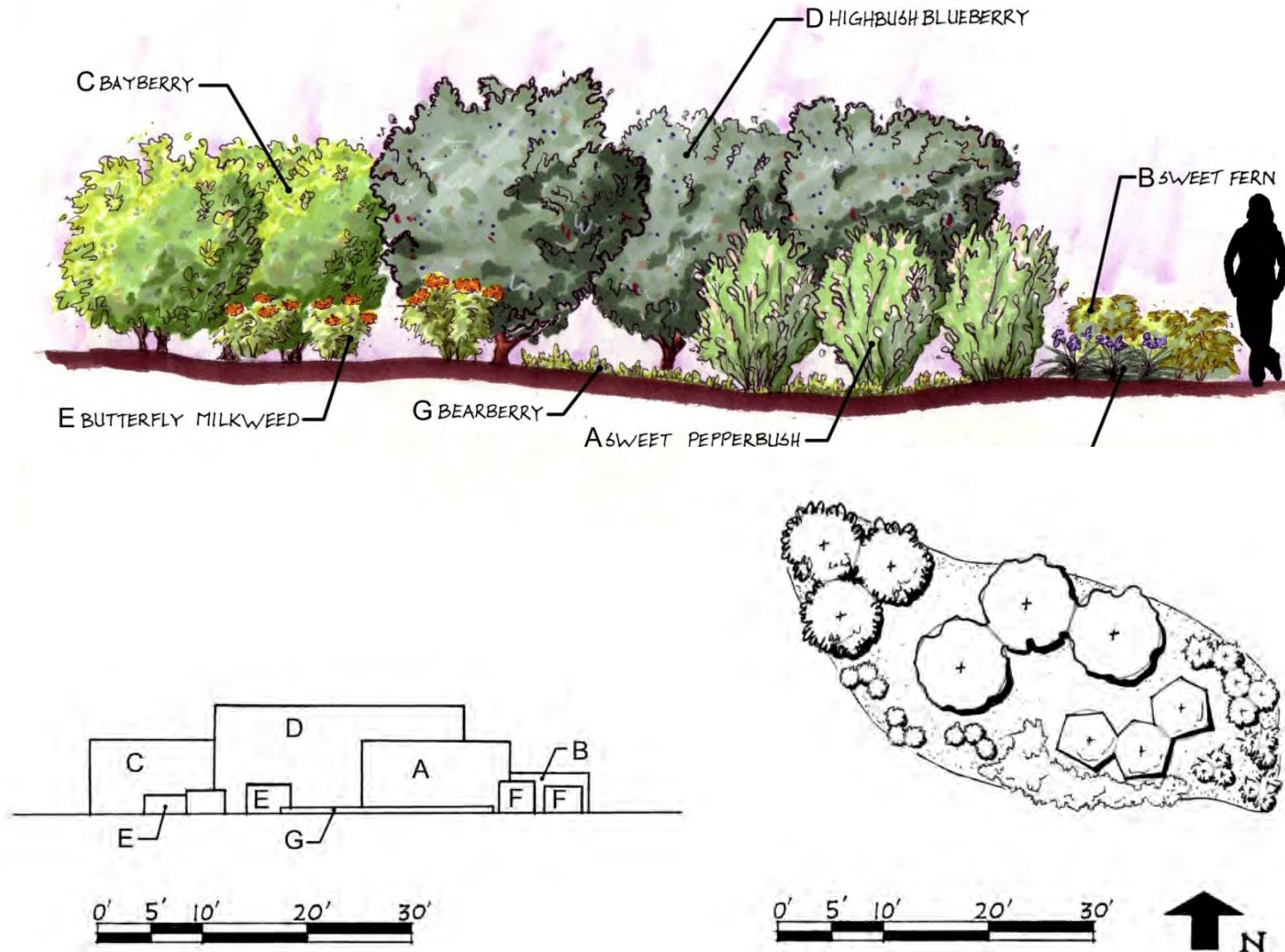
Scale: Mature plant heights range from 1' – 12'

Layering: 3 vegetative layers

7 species (4 shrubs, 2 perennials/vines, 1 groundcover/grass)

Plant Chart	Q	Size (ft)	K	W	P	AI	Comments
Shrubs							
Sweet Pepperbush <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	3	4-6 x 4-8		Y		Ivory white flowers bloom July–Aug.	Blooms attract beneficial insects and butterflies; fragrant
Sweet Fern <i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	5	2-4 x 2-4		Y		Brown catkin flowers May–Aug.	Small olive brown fruits Aug–Oct. attract butterflies and birds; fragrant; slope stabilizer; nitrogen fixer
Bayberry <i>Morella pensylvanica</i>	3	5-7 x 5-7	Y	Y	3	Billowed mounds and tiered branch habit	Gray fruits on stem June–April attract beneficial insects and birds; aromatic; nitrogen fixer
Highbush Blueberry <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	3	6-12 x 8-12		Y	1	White to pinkish flowers May–June; vibrant fall foliage	Dark blue fruits June–Sept. attract beneficial insects, birds, and small mammals
Perennials / Vines							
Butterfly Milkweed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	9	1.5-3 x 2		Y		Orange to red-orange flowers bloom June–Aug.	Attracts beneficial insects and butterflies; leaves are food source for monarch butterfly larvae
Groundcovers / Grasses							
Bearberry <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	13	1-4 x var.		Y		Pinkish white flowers April–July; bronze winter foliage; evergreen	Large bright to dark red fruits July–March attract birds

Rain Garden Models



Rain Garden Models

Native Plant System Model 6

Site Inventory Considerations:

Parent community: n/a

Site conditions: Wet to intermittent, pollutants, compacted soils, bottom of sloped area prone to erosion, full sun, Coastal Zone 1

Lot type: Small or narrow (5,000 square feet or less), steeply sloped, adjacent to critical area or wetland, upland

Coverage Considerations:

Total approximate coverage = 120 ft²

Design Considerations:

Color: Analogous color scheme; white, pink, and purple flowers

Form: Circular - oval

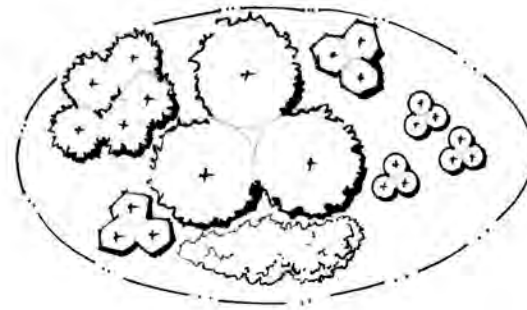
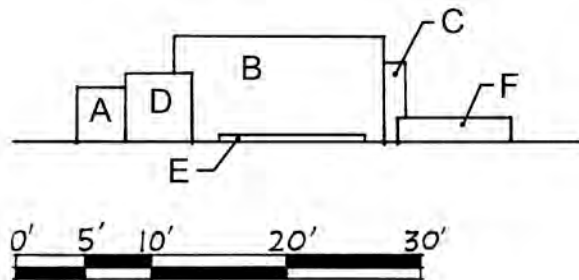
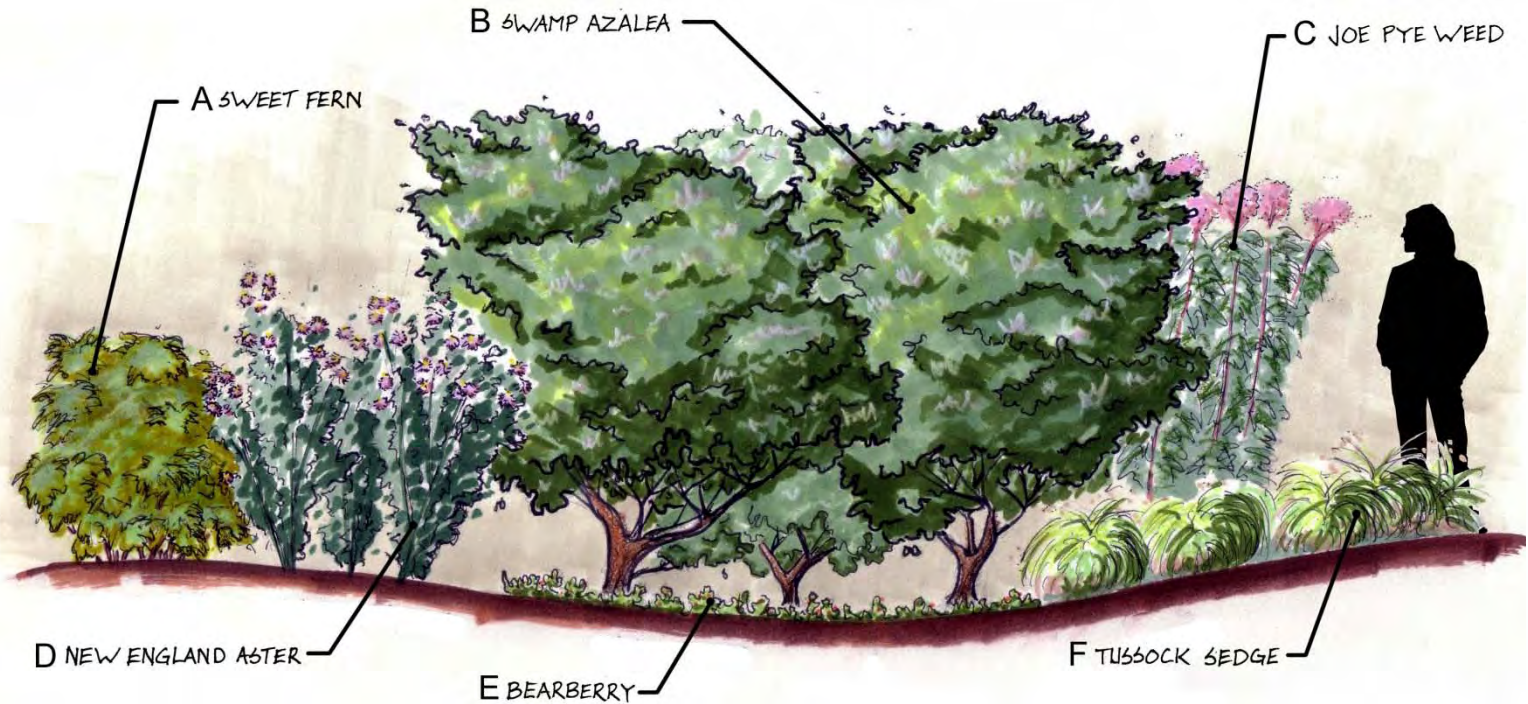
Scale: Mature plant heights range from 1' – 8'

Layering: 3 vegetative layers

6 species (2 shrubs, 2 perennials/vines, 2 groundcovers/grasses)

Plant Chart	Q	Size (ft)	K	W	P	AI	Comments
Shrubs							
Sweet Fern <i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	5	2-4 x 2-4		Y		Brown catkin flowers May–Aug.	Small olive brown fruits Aug.–Oct. attract butterflies and birds; fragrant; slope stabilizer; nitrogen fixer
Swamp Azalea <i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	3	1-8 x 3-8		Y		White or pink flowers May–Aug.	Attracts birds
Perennials / Vines							
Joe Pye Weed <i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	3	4-7 x 3		Y		Large domes of pink or purple flowers July–Sept.	Honey attracts scores of beneficial insects and birds; fragrant
New England Aster <i>Symphoricarpos novae-angliae</i>	3	4-6 x 4		Y		Violet-purple or pinkish flowers Aug.– Sept.	Attracts beneficial insects and butterflies; nectar source for Monarch butterfly
Groundcovers / Grasses							
Bearberry <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	1 3	1-4 x varies		Y		White-pinkish flowers April–July; bronze winter foliage	Large bright to dark red fruits July–March attract birds
Tussock Sedge <i>Carex stricta</i>	9	1-2 x 1.5-2		Y		Greenish-brown blooms April–June	Clumped form provides nesting habitat for small birds; attracts butterflies and other birds

Rain Garden Models



Plant Care: Year 1

WATERING

- Water 1x / week for three weeks after planting (Soak, don't sprinkle!)
- Do **NOT** water during a given week if 1" of rain accumulates
- Water the garden in droughty periods in mid-summer if signs of stress are obvious

Plant Care: Year 1

WEEDING

- Weed to reduce competition for space, light and water (most will be pioneer or invasive species, which grow fast!)
- Pull weeds from their base when they're young and still small (aka keep up with them!)

Plant Care: Year 2

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

- Keep stems and seedheads on during winter for visual interest, wildlife cover and food for birds
- Cut off dead plant material in spring

WATERING

- Water only if in a drought

WEEDING

- Continue weeding as needed