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**Office of the Kalamazoo County**  
**Drain Commissioner**  
 201 W. Kalamazoo Avenue  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
[www.kalcounty.com/drain](http://www.kalcounty.com/drain)



# Rain Garden Designs for Kalamazoo County



Free programs & field trips open to all  
 Outstanding member benefits  
 ~ [kalamazoowildones.org](http://kalamazoowildones.org) ~



## Installation Guidelines

- \* Visit [www.raingardens.org](http://www.raingardens.org) to learn about the benefits of rain gardens.
  - \* Locate the rain garden at least 10 feet from a foundation or basement in partial or full sun, in a relatively flat area.
  - \* Size the garden to be about 15-20% of the area from which it will receive runoff (e.g. roof, lawn, parking lot) for well-drained, sandy soils. Make the rain garden larger (30-45% of the drainage area) in clayey soils.
  - \* Kidney, oval, or other long shapes work well, with the length about twice the width. Direct runoff into the garden's long edge via a downspout or depression.
  - \* Call MISS DIG at 811 or 1-800-482-7171 before you dig.
  - \* For sandy or silty well-drained soils, dig a shallow basin about 3-6 inches deep, making the bottom level and gently sloping the edges or building a berm around the lower edge. You may want to make the basin slightly deeper for clayey soils (5-7 inches).
  - \* Plant native plant plugs about 12-18 inches apart and add a 2 inch layer of shredded hardwood mulch or another ground cover to suppress weeds. Using edging can help keep grass out of your garden and provide definition.
  - \* Water plants in the first two years until established, cut back plants in the fall or spring, and divide plants and weed as needed. Visit [michiganflora.net](http://michiganflora.net) for pictures of plants in all growth stages to help with identification while weeding.
  - \* For assistance in situating, designing, or maintaining your rain garden, Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones offers a free site visit to your property with suggestions and advice for Wild Ones members, as well as a free yearly plant exchange. Yearly memberships start at \$20-\$37, visit [kalamazoowildones.org](http://kalamazoowildones.org) for more information. Contact the Office of the Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner (269-384-8117) for a partial refund toward a one-year membership after rain garden installation is complete.
- \* To order a soil test kit self-mailer for \$25 to find out your soil's type and nutrient needs visit <http://bookstore.msue.msue.edu>
  - \* For a simple DIY soil test and for more guidelines on designing and installing a home rain garden, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stormwater/raingarden/>
  - \* For more installation considerations for commercial sites and new construction, see the Site Development Rules at <http://www.kalcounty.com/drain>

## Plant list for rain garden designs on reverse

70 and 140 sq. ft. gardens in sandy or silty soils in full or partial sun

Common name	Species name	Number of plants	
		Rain Garden 1	Rain Garden 2
Black-eyed Susan	Rudbeckia hirta	10	11
Butterfly weed	Asclepias tuberosa	5	15
Button/Rough blazing star	Liatris aspera	12	14
Nodding wild onion	Allium cernuum	8	7
Prairie dropseed	Sporobolus heterolepis	8	7
Prairie phlox	Phlox pilosa	11	9
Purple coneflower	Echinacea purpurea	8	7
Purple milkweed	Asclepias purpurascens	5	9
Lead plant	Amorpha canescens		3
Little bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium		15
Smooth aster	Aster laevis		5
Wild bergamot	Monarda fistulosa		10

Recommended plants may be available for purchase at:

**Hidden Savanna Nursery**—many local native varieties available  
 100 N Van Kal St, Kalamazoo, MI / 269-352-3876  
[www.hiddensavanna.com](http://www.hiddensavanna.com)

See website or call for dates and times of sales, additional times are available by appointment. \*Bring this brochure to Hidden Savanna for 5% off in addition to retail discounts already offered

**Romence Gardens**  
 9660 Shaver Road, Portage, MI / 269-323-8310  
[www.romencegardencenters.com](http://www.romencegardencenters.com)

**Wedel's Nursery, Florist and Garden Center**  
 5020 Texas Drive, Kalamazoo, MI / 269-345-1195  
[www.wedels.com](http://www.wedels.com)

\*Ask about their Loyalty Program for \$5 and \$10 rewards

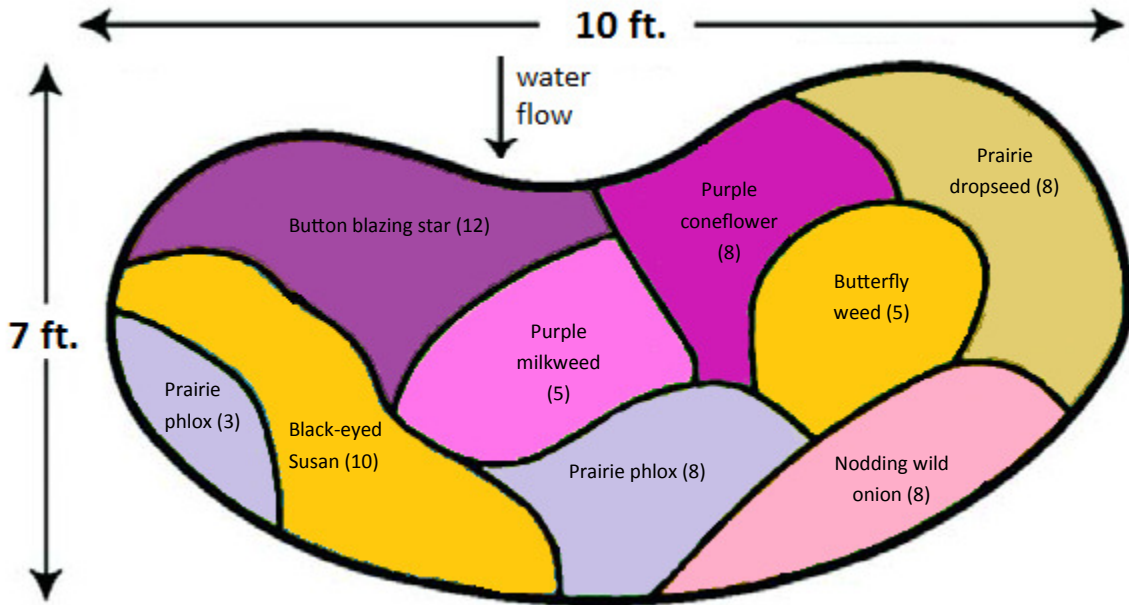
**Wenke Greenhouses**  
 5071 Market Street, Kalamazoo, MI / 269-388-2266  
[www.wenkegardencenters.com](http://www.wenkegardencenters.com)

\*Ask about their free Garden Rewards Program

\*\*See <http://kalcounty.com/drain/raingarden.htm> for more resources, including a list of local businesses that provide rain garden design, installation, or maintenance.

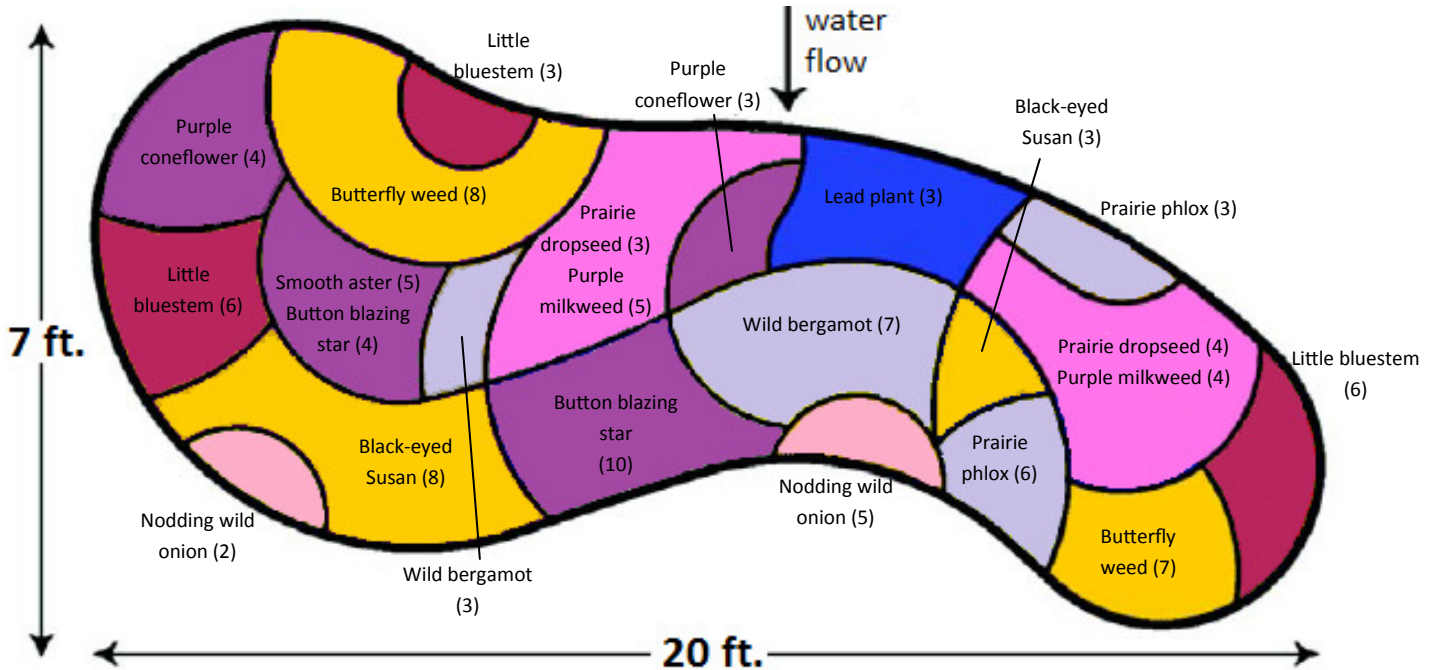
### Rain Garden 1:

70 sq. ft. rain garden for sandy or silty soils, full or partial sun.  
 Can accept up to 350 sq. ft. of drainage area to the garden.  
 Total number of plants needed: 67 Approximate cost: \$250-350



### Rain Garden 2:

140 sq. ft. rain garden for sandy or silty soils, full or partial sun.  
 Can accept up to 700 sq. ft. of drainage area to the garden.  
 Total number of plants needed: 112 Approximate cost: \$450-550



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