Our Plant List

Anise Hyssop
Bee Balm
Northern Sea Oats
Foamflower
Swamp Milkweed
New England Aster
Purple Coneflower
Cardinal Flower
Switch Grass

Other plants include: Joe Pye Weed, Solomon Seal, Sedum, Green Hen and Chicks, & Spiked Gayfeather

When it rains, catch it with a rain garden

A rain garden is designed to soak up rain water running off of driveways, patios, sidewalks, and roads. It protects water quality by filtering pollution and decreasing erosion.

Demonstration Rain Garden
Planted by volunteers on May 30, 2009

Special Thanks to...
Ontario County Water Resources Council Special Projects Fund 2009
Hobart and William Smith Buildings and Grounds And Volunteers
**FLI Demonstration Rain Garden**

**Step 1: Track Stormwater**
Stormwater is rainwater and snowmelt that runs off of impervious surfaces, such as driveways, sidewalks, roads, patios and roofs. It carries pet waste, sediment, road salt, litter, leaves, grass clippings, fertilizers, pesticides to streams and lakes. The rain garden receives runoff from S. Main Street and the neighboring driveway.

**Step 2: Mark It Out**
The rain garden is large, estimated to be 300 sq. feet to accommodate the drainage area and soil type. The garden was designed to incorporate a large maple tree and to allow space for mowing and educational activities.

**Step 3: Garden Layout**
The garden layout focused on incorporating plants with pink and purple flowers highlighted with white and green. The walkway is unique for a rain garden and allows access without compacting soil. The stone bed slows water flow and adds visual attention to the grasses and sedums.

**Step 4: Choose Plants**
Native plants were selected for the garden because of their winter hardiness, ability to grow in clay soil, and resistance to disease and insect pests. Plants in this garden also prefer shade and partial sun. They were purchased at Moon Valley Plant Company in Dundee and Hoover’s Greenhouse in Penn Yan because of their selection of native plants.

**Step 5: Dig**
The garden was dug so that the bottom is level and shaped like a shallow pie-plate with excess soil forming a berm on the far side of the garden. The garden depth (3-5”) was determined by the 4% slope of the backyard.

**Step 6: Soil Test**
A simple soil test kit was used to evaluate the nutrient content of the rain garden.

**Step 7: Amend Soil**
The soil had very little nutrients. Some of the clay soil was removed and what remained was amended with a 1/2 yard of compost and 1 yard of sand and topsoil, rototilled and allowed to settle before planting.

**Step 8: Plant**
The plants were placed in groups of 3 and spaced to allow room for expansion. The roots were loosened before planting to stimulate growth and planted with a handful of compost.

**Step 9: Mulch**
Mulch was laid 2-3 inches thick to retain moisture and suppress weeds.

**Step 10: Maintenance**
After planting, the garden was regularly watered to aid in establishing the plants and routinely weeded. Plants dieback over the winter to provide protection and habitat. In Spring, the garden will be cleaned and a fresh layer of mulch applied.