Rain Garden Plants
Wet or Dry, These Plants Survive

Planting a Rain Garden
Plants that thrive in wet and dry weather are excellent choices for a rain garden. All plants should be drought-tolerant.

How do rain gardens work?
In a rain garden, the plants and soil work together. The plant roots and soil organisms soak up and filter runoff. Micro-organisms in the soil/plant environment break down or absorb pollutants.

Rain gardens have three planting zones, according to their water needs.

Zone 1 Plants
- Juncus
- Carex

Zone 2 Plants
- Spiraea
- Cornus

Zone 3 Plants
- Laurel
- Cypress

In the Y’s rain garden, rocks are primarily used in Zone 1.

Rain Garden Maintenance
Maintaining a rain garden in the long term generally consists of weeding. Weeds can be easily removed by hand. For the first two years, most plants need watering during the summer to establish healthy root systems.