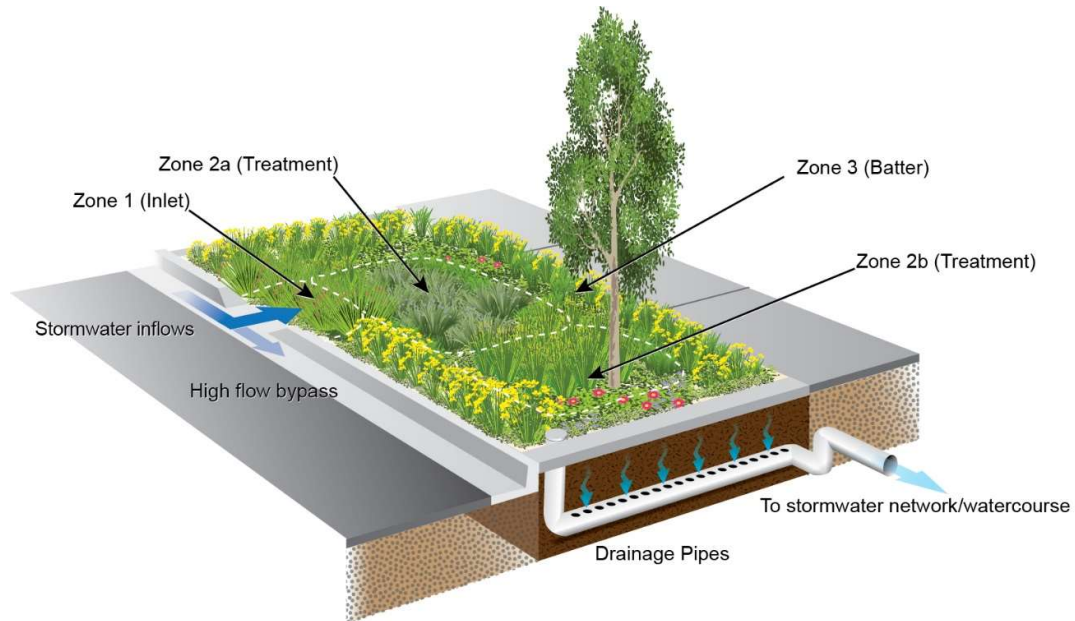


Raingarden planting palettes

When designing your raingarden, it is essential to choose a diverse range of plants. Raingardens are used to improve stormwater quality, but if planted thoughtfully, raingardens can also enhance biodiversity and beauty in our streetscapes and parks.



Raingarden zones for plant selection

Planting in zones

Positions of plants should reflect the type of purpose they serve in the system. Raingardens can be divided into zones to guide planting and media arrangement. The major zones within the system are shown in Figure 1 and described as follows:

Inlet (Zone 1)

Where water enters the system. At periods of high inundation, flow can be strong. Plants in this area should be deep-rooted sedge and rush species. Densely-stemmed species should be chosen to filter water flow, catch rubbish and slow unsettled sediment.

Treatment (Zone 2a)

This is the crucial point of treatment, so ensure 50% of plants in this zone possess nitrogen-removal capabilities (as indicated by **N**). Choose a range of different species for system resilience. Ensure mat forming species are included to out-compete weeds.

Treatment (Zone 2b)

Similar plants to Treatment Zone A are appropriate here, but be mindful that in larger raingardens, this zone may have an extended dry period. Choose plants able to tolerate this, rather than more aquatic species.

Batters (Zone 3)

The edges of the system, above and around the treatment zone. Here is your opportunity to plant species from your local area, and plants that suit the aesthetic of the raingarden location.

For some ideas, have a look at the following sample planting lists. Species can be mixed and matched to suit your needs.

Remember ...

- To plan your raingarden planting early and order your species well in advance (at least 6 months)
- To plant a range of plant forms and root depths for raingarden efficiency and resilience
- To seek expert advice from your local nursery

Planting guide legend



These species help draw excess nitrogen out of the water. For the best water quality outcomes, you'll want to make up your Treatment Zone using at least 50% of these.

- * These indigenous species are great for biodiversity but can be harder to find in some nurseries.

Sample planting list 1: Colourful species to attract birds and butterflies

Inlet (Zone 1)



Baumea Juncea
Bare Twig-rush (sedge)



Juncus pauciflorus
Loose Flower Rush (sedge)



Gahnia sieberiana
Red Fruit Saw-sedge

Treatment (Zone 2a)



Juncus flavidus
Juncus



Ficinia nodosa
Knobby Club-rush

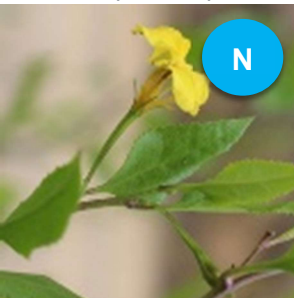


Juncus pallidus
Pale rush



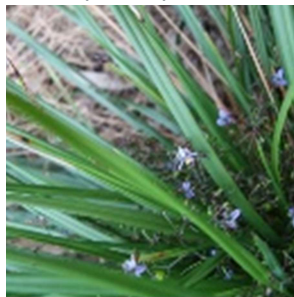
Dichondra repens
Kidney weed

Treatment (Zone 2b) – Same as Treatment (Zone 2a) above, plus:



Goodenia ovata
Hop Goodenia

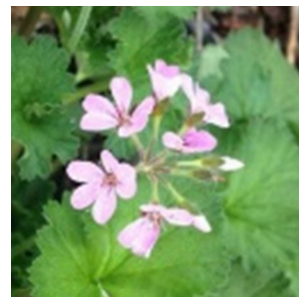
Batters (Zone 3)



Dianella brevicaulis
Pale Flax Lilly



Wahlenbergia stricta
Austral Bluebell



Pelargonium australe
Austral Stork's-bill



Grevillea ilicifolia
Native Holly

Plant images sourced from The Atlas of Living Australia (<http://bie.ala.org.au/>)

Sample planting list 2: Neutral colours

Inlet (Zone 1)



*Chorizandra enodis**
Black Bristle Brush



*Eleocharis acuta**
Common Spike Rush

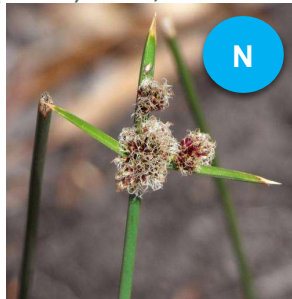


Carex inversa
Knob Sedge

Treatment (Zone 2a) – As Inlet (Zone 1) above, and also:

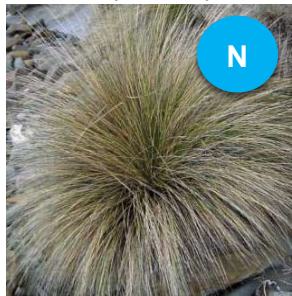


Carex tereticaulis
Rush Sedge



Cyperus gymnocaulus
Spiny Sedge

Treatment (Zone 2b) – Same as Treatment (Zone 2a) above, plus:



Poa poiformis
Blue Tussock Grass

Batters (Zone 3)



Lomandra multiflora spp *dura*
Iron Grass



Dianella revoluta
Spreading flax lilly



Mentha australis
Native mint



Rytidosperma caespitosum
Ringed Wallaby Grass

Plant images sourced from The Atlas of Living Australia (<http://bie.ala.org.au/>)

Sample planting list 3: Spiky-looking species to suit an architectural setting

Inlet (Zone 1)



Juncus subsecundus
Finger Rush



Carex appressa
Tall Sedge



*Gahnia trifida**
Coast Saw-sedge

Treatment (Zone 2a) – Same as Inlet (Zone 1) above, plus:



Ficinia nodosa
Knobby Club-rush



Juncus pallidus
Pale Rush



*Juncus kraussii**
Sea Rush

Treatment (Zone 2b) – Same as Treatment (Zone 2a) above, plus:



*Lepidosperma gladiatum**
Coast Sword-sedge



Selliera radicans
Shiny swamp-mat



Dichondra repens
Kidney weed

Batters (Zone 3)



Rytidosperma racemosum
Wallaby Grass



Microlaena stipoides
Meadow rice-grass

Plant images sourced from The Atlas of Living Australia (<http://bie.ala.org.au/>)

Sample planting list 4: Indigenous flowering rain garden
Inlet (Zone 1)



Bolboschoenus caldwellii
Marsh club rush



Eleocharis acuta
Common spike rush

Treatment (Zone 2a & 2b)



*Chorizandra enodis**
Black bristle rush



Carex bichenoviana
Notched sedge



Mentha diemenica
Slender mint



Dichondra repens
Kidney weed

Batters (Zone 3) – Mid- Batter



Dichondra repens
Kidney weed



Wahlenbergia luteola
Yellowish bluebell



Ranunculus lappaceus
Australian buttercup



Calocephalus citreus
Lemon beauty-heads

Batters (Zone 3) – Top Batter



Calostemma purpureum
Garland lily



*Pycnosorus globosus**
Drumsticks



Rytidosperma auriculatum
Lobed wallaby-grass



Rytidosperma carphoides
Short wallaby-grass

Plant images sourced from The Atlas of Living Australia (<http://bie.ala.org.au/>)

*Image sourced from Plant Selector (<http://plantsselector.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/>)