How to Use the Georgia Plant Catalog in the Rain Garden App

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Choosing plants for a rain garden can be challenging, but using the Rain Garden app’s Georgia Plant Catalog will make the selection process simple.

Rain gardens are typically planted with native shrubs, perennials and grasses and can provide colorful landscaped areas on your property. In addition, you can build your rain garden to suit your tastes.

Through the app’s Plant Selector “Choose Plants” tool, users can select regionally appropriate native noninvasive plants that are known to work well in rain gardens. Plants can be selected based on what plants occur in Georgia, plant type, sun exposure, bloom color and ecoregion. Users can also store plant species information in the app about a rain garden or multiple gardens they are planning to install in addition to setting maintenance reminders for multiple gardens.

Follow these directions to select regionally appropriate native plants for Georgia:

A. To establish your own rain garden native plant list(s):
   1. Select “My Rain Gardens.” Select the “+” option at the top left.
   2. Provide a rain garden name.
   3. Select “Add Rain Garden.” You will then be taken to “My Rain Gardens” and the garden(s) you have named. Hit “Close.”

B. To search and select regionally appropriate Georgia native plants for your rain garden(s):
   1. On the home page of the app, select the “Choose Plants” option.
   2. Select “Search the Plant Catalog”
   3. Under “Plant Catalog” choose one or more preferred selections for the following:
      a. Plant type (fern, grass, perennial, rush/sedge, shrub, tree). When selections are complete, use “<” at top left to get back to Plant Catalog selections.
      b. Sun Exposure (full sun, part sun, part shade, shade). When selections are complete, use “<” at top left to get back to Plant Catalog selections.
      c. Bloom Color (blue, orange, purple, pink, red, white, yellow, multi-color, none). When selections are complete, use “<” at top left to get back to Plant Catalog selections.
      d. Keyword (plant notes) – select if want to use a key word in search
         • Select “Keyword (plant notes).”
         • Select “+” in top right hand corner.
         • Type in keyword.
         • Select “Done.”
         • Select “< Plant Catalog” to return to Plant Catalog.
         • To delete keyword, select “Keyword (plant notes).”
         • Hold down on keyword and scroll to the left. Use the “Delete” button on the right to eliminate the keyword.
         • Select “< Plant Catalog” to return to Plant Catalog.
      e. State: Select “Georgia” and then “Confirm” at top right corner.
   4. When all desired selections are completed, press “Search Plant Catalog.”
5. When you obtain the plant search results, you can select an individual plant.
6. You will then be taken to another separate screen that provides specific information on that individual species and includes the following:
   a. Native plant for Georgia
   b. Height and width range
   c. Seasonal bloom time
   d. Type of plant
   e. Color
   f. Ecoregion(s) plant occurs in Georgia.
   g. Terrain (upland, slope and bottom) of rain garden that is most appropriate for selected plant.

Please note: To select the right native plants for your site location, it is strongly suggested that you choose only the plants from your plant search list that occur in your specific ecoregion. To determine your Georgia ecoregion, locate your county on the map below. You can choose from the following ecoregions on the app’s plant selections:

- Piedmont
- Upper Southern Coastal Plain (Southeastern Plains)
- Blue Ridge
- Cumberland Plateau (Southwestern Appalachians) and Ridge and Valley (combined for app)
- Lower Southern Coastal Plain (Southern Coastal Plain)
C. To add a Specific Native Plant from the Initial search list to your “My Rain Garden” screen:

1. Select plant species that are found within your ecoregion of Georgia. Once you have been taken to the specific plant species page, select “+” at the top right.
2. You will be taken to the “My Rain Gardens” screen. Select the specific rain garden name(s) that you want to add the plant.
3. You can use the “<” button to get you back to the plant list. Continue to select individual plant species until you have completed your list.
4. When you want to review your rain garden list, select “close” on the top right of the Plant Results. Replay “Yes” to the question “Do you want to close the Plant Catalog?”
5. You will return to the home page. Select “My Rain Gardens.” Select the specific rain garden name you have assigned by selecting “>.”
6. Select “Plant List” by pressing “>.”