

ARAIYS NEWS

SPRING NEWS LETTER 2018



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Greetings and welcome to our Spring 2018 Newsletter. Winter has been slow to loosen its grip on the east end but hopeful signs of Spring are beginning to pop all around us. Crimson leaf buds on Red Maples, yellow flowers of forsythia, and the reemergence of our spring bulbs are early indicators that the earth is waking from its winter nap. We are excited for a new season and new opportunities to design outdoor spaces that connect our clients to the beauty of their natural surroundings. One of our passions at Araiys Design is thoughtfully using gardens and landscape features to assist in a sites stormwater management. An effective means of achieving this is by taking advantage of a sites topography to create richly planted Rain Gardens that function to filter contaminants from overland storm flows. Rain Gardens allow for the planting of a diverse, native plant palette that add texture, color, and beneficial wildlife to the landscape. Please read below for more information. Also, take a look at page 2 for inspiring plant ideas for your garden. We here at Araiys wish you and your family a healthy and happy Spring season!

-Steven Nieroda, RLA
Senior Associate

Current News Topic: Rain Gardens



Rain Gardens are a useful Best Management Practice (BMP) tool that Landscape Architects use in conjunction with or as an alternative to traditional stormwater management. Traditional stormwater management is typically an “end of pipe, out of sight solution” that directly pipes stormwater into underground leaching structures. However, in urbanized areas, stormwater is often laden with non-point source contaminants such as oil, grease, toxic chemicals, excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides. If not filtered, contaminated stormwater is piped and discharged underground where it can contaminate drinking water and local water bodies. A key benefit of a Rain Garden is that it replicates natural processes by providing biofiltration of upland stormwater flows. Located at a low point and vegetated with native plant species, rain gardens allow for

the slow percolation of stormwater into the soil profile. In addition to providing an aesthetic value, plants in a rain garden also uptake pollutants through their root systems thus eliminating the contaminant from the hydrologic cycle. This process is called Phytoremediation. Rain Gardens also provide habitat for nesting birds and beneficial pollinators.

Araiys Design seeks to incorporate Rain Gardens and other ‘green infrastructure’ into our design process whenever possible. A recent example is at a new car dealership in Watermill where in developing the grading plan, we took advantage of the sites natural grade to pitch toward an open area adjacent to the parking lot. The rain garden was sited where it would receive a large portion of stormwater flowing from the parking area. A cut in the curb of the parking lot allows water to flow over a natural stone riprap bed into the garden. Planted with a mix of Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*), Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*) and surrounded by Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*), Virginia Rose (*Rosa virginiana*), and Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), the rain garden introduces a diverse plant palette in an otherwise austere parking area within a large commercial complex.

With the combination of its environmental and biodiversity benefits, along with the sensory and visual beauty, Rain Gardens bring a larger purpose to the landscape. The list of potential plants for a Rain Garden is endless and will be sure to meet every client’s need and preference. Araiys Design has had the pleasure of designing numerous Rain Gardens on the East End for both residential and municipal use.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS | SITE PLANNERS | DEVELOPMENT STRATEGISTS

AGAWAM STUDIO, 38 NUGENT STREET, SUITE B, SOUTHAMPTON, NEW YORK 11968
P: 631.283.1131 | F: 631.283.6677 | E: INFO@ARAIYSDESIGN.COM | WWW.ARAIYSDESIGN.



PLANTS OF THE SEASON

Native Plants Of The Season



Common Name: Eastern Redbud

Scientific Name: *Cercis canadensis*

Cercis canadensis, commonly known as eastern redbud, is a multi-trunk understory tree with great visual interests. This species features unique branching pattern which usually form a spreading, rounded crown. Rosy flowers bloom prolifically in early spring before foliage emerges. Blue-green foliage turns into greenish-yellow when fall approaches. The eastern redbud grows to a height of 20 to 30 feet and a spread of 25 to 35 feet at maturity. Full sun to partial shade with moist and well-drained soil is best for this species. With outstanding aesthetic features, eastern redbud is typically planted as specimen or small groups to provide visual beauty.



Common Name: Black Haw

Scientific Name: *Viburnum prunifolium*

Viburnum prunifolium, also known as black haw, is an upright and multi-stemmed deciduous shrub or small tree. Creamy white flowers borne in flat-topped cymes appear in mid to late Spring. Flowers then give way to yellow berries which provide food source for birds. Glossy dark green leaves change to shades of red and purple in fall. Black haw typically grows 12 to 15 feet in height with a spread of 6 to 12 feet as a shrub. It prefers full sun to partial shade with moist but well-drained soil. The rounded and upright habit of this species make it popular as specimen shrub or tree, bordering planting, and tall hedge or screening.

Ornamental Plants Of the Season



Common Name: Cunningham Hybrid Rhododendron

Scientific Name: *Rhododendron* x 'Cunningham's Blush'

Rhododendron x 'Cunningham's Blush', commonly called as Cunningham Hybrid Rhododendron, is a dense and highly ornamental evergreen shrub with large trusses of flowers. Pink flowers bloom in late spring and stand out with contrast to the glossy dark green leaves. Cunningham's blush can grow to 6 to 7 feet tall when mature. This species prefers full shade to partial sun. It requires moist but well-drained soil, otherwise roots will suffer rot. Cunningham's Blush is ideal for shrub bordering and informal hedges planting.



Common Name: Short Orient Switchgrass

Scientific Name: *Panicum virgatum* 'Short Orient'

Panicum virgatum 'Short Orient' is a new Long Island provenance grass. It is an elegant warm-season grass which only reaches 24" tall. Medium-green, finely-textured leaves are topped by the airy flower panicles when in flower. Blooming can last through summer to early winter. Full sun to partial shade with average to medium soil are best for this species. This grass is good to be used in cottage gardens, meadow, and rain gardens.