Recommended plants adapted to rain gardens in the Pacific Northwest, based on research done by Washington State University:

“Autumn Brilliance” serviceberry (Amelanchier x grandiflora): Small deciduous tree with clusters of small white flowers in early spring followed by bright red fruit that attracts birds. Its light gray bark is attractive in winter.

Oregon grape (Mahonia aquifolium): Medium-large evergreen shrub with shiny dark green leaves. Showy and fragrant yellow flowers in spring give way to small, bluish-purple fruit.

Beach strawberry (Fragaria chiloensis): Ground cover with bright green leathery leaves and attractive white flowers.

“Blizzard” mock orange (Philadelphus lewisii): Medium deciduous shrub with fragrant white flowers in spring.

Pacific ninebark (Physocarpus capitatus): Large spreading deciduous shrub that grows up to 13 feet tall. Deep green, shiny leaves and clusters of small white flowers in spring.

Redosier dogwood (Cornus sericea): Broad-spreading shrub with deciduous medium green leaves. Clusters of small white flowers in spring give way to white or bluish berries. In winter, the stems turn bright red or yellow.

Tufted hair grass (Deschampsia cespitosa): Ornamental grass that grows 2-3 feet tall and has numerous, attractive flower stems bearing minute flowers on airy open panicles. (See http://www.wnps.org/landscaping/herbarium/pages/deschampsia-cespitosa.html)

Daylilies (Hemerocallis spp.): Common perennial flower in Washington state that can grow 12 inches to 3-4 feet tall, depending on the cultivar. (Go to “Hardy Plants for Waterwise Landscapes,” http://public.wsu.edu/~lohr/wcl/per/hemero/hemerocallis.html)