

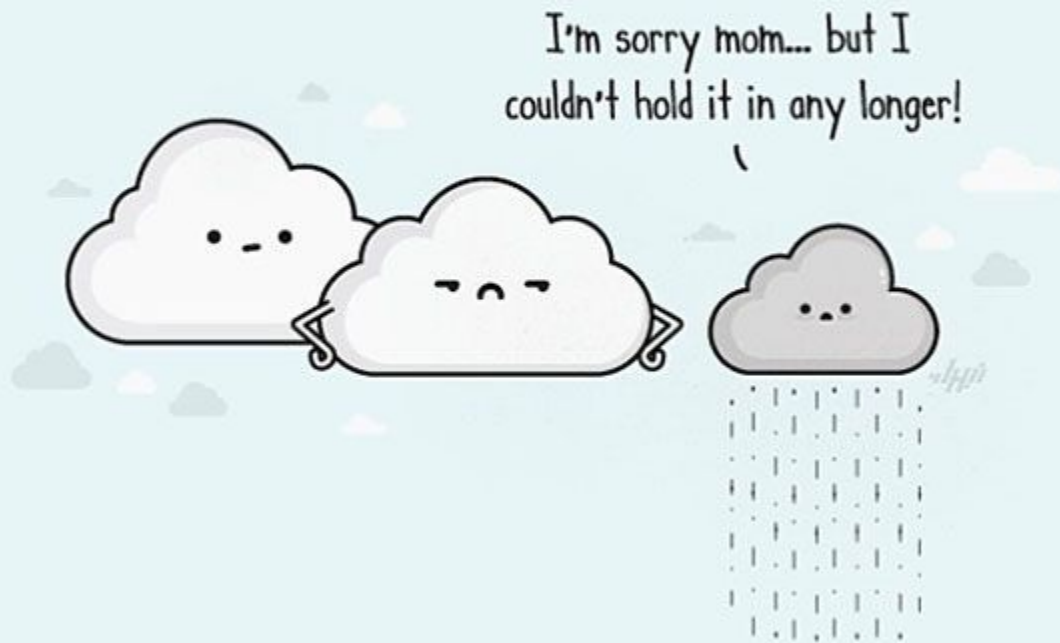


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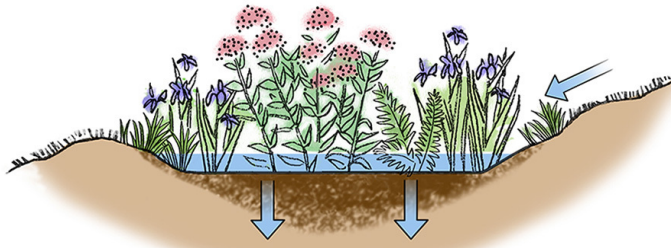
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## Another Wet Week Around Eastern Iowa

With another wet week  
of weather ahead of us,  
it may be time to start



planning. If you have a heavy soil with poor drainage, some plants may begin to show signs of stress due to excessive moisture.

Don't forget Mother

Nature can turn the faucet off just as easily that she turns it on, but this list is a great start for low lying moisture laden areas. The following plants prefer a moist soil, but can tolerate drier area for a short amount of time.



*Ligularia* (picture credit: waltersgarden.com)

## Wet Shade Perennials

### Cimicifuga

Why we love it: This deep chocolate color leaf is unexpected in your shade garden.

This plant is best kept in the back of the garden so the height of 4' doesn't block other plants. A few soft hours of morning

sunlight are tolerable, otherwise full shade is best. Blooms in July for a later season interest. Zone 3.

### Siberian Iris

Why we love it: This flexible plant can be planted in full sun to full shade.

Best blooms will be with full sun. In a drought year Siberian Iris may prefer a little boost of water to keep it fresh if planted in full sun. Siberian Iris can also be used in a rain garden or along an area where a downspout drains. Deer resistant and a beautiful deep purple bloom in May. Zone 2.

### Ligularia

Why we love it: This plant comes in many shapes and sizes... literally.

Depending on the variety it can be anywhere from 2-4' tall. A variety like 'Britt Marie' will have dark leaves and a true rounded flower shape.

'Rockets' will have green leaves and a candle shaped upright bloom. Very cold hardy and is expected to live around 20 years.



*Siberian Iris (pinterest.com)*



*Golden Duke Hemlock - slow growing to 10' tall and 3' wide. (Picture credit: Hortmag.com)*

## Wet Shade Shrubs/Trees

### Hemlock

Why we love it: This is one of the few evergreens that can handle some shade and moisture. There are weeping shrub forms 'Emerald Fountains', gold forms 'Golden Duke', and larger tree forms 'Canadian Hemlock'. Mature sizes vary based on variety. Best if kept out of strong winter winds.

### Summersweet

Why we love it: Butterflies are drawn to the sweet scent of this shrub. With more moisture the Summersweet family can tolerate full sun. Blooms are a candlelike shape and come in two colors, pink and white. Yellow fall color adorns the leaves in the fall.



*Ruby Spice Summersweet*



## Wet Sun Perennials

### Hardy Hibiscus

Why we love it: This perennial thrives during the heat of the summer. It can be VERY slow to emerge in the spring, so don't pull it out too soon. If you have been reading the emailer long, you know I am particular about reds. I don't appreciate filters on photos, and really dislike when a "red" bloom comes out with a pink tone. I can attest that the Cranberry Crush Hibiscus is indeed a true red bloom. So pair it with a gold yellow, a true blue, and watch that combination WOW all summer. Japanese Beetles do land on this bloom, so I head out in the morning and handpick the bug and drop them into a bucket of soapy water to keep my blooms protected.

### Joe Pye Weed

Why we love it: The butterflies always make a point to visit these plants when they are fluttering around. This monster plant can range from 3-7' tall depending on the variety. The pink blooms are an unexpected welcome July-September. Another fun variety is the Chocolate Joe Pye Weed which has darker leaves and a white bloom. If grown in full sun the moisture is a must. Zone: 3.

## Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

Why we love it: A few of the Switchgrass varieties such as 'Cheyenne Sky' and 'Shenandoah' turn a burgundy fall color. 'Northwind' is a vertical accent grass that tends to go yellow and then beige in the fall. Deer resistant. Zone: 4.



*Joe Pye Weed (picture credit: longislandnatives.com)*



Photo courtesy of Proven Winners - [www.provenwinners.com](http://www.provenwinners.com)



## Wet Sun Shrubs/Trees

### Bald Cypress

Why we love it: This big ole evergreen can be 50' tall and 25' wide. Being a deciduous evergreen, one unique characteristic is the ability for this evergreen to lose all of its needles in the winter. Cypress will only grow "knees" if planted in a constantly wet body of water.

### Chokeberry

Why we love it: Staff loves this shrub because one of our co-workers bakes us wonderful treats with these berries. More than likely you won't be tasting her treats, but don't worry there are plenty of other reasons to love this shrub. Fall color, beautiful white blooms, and ease of care. The edible berry is loaded with anti-oxidants. To help aid in breaking down the tannins, the fruit should be frozen or baked prior to eating. Sizes vary depending on variety. The smallest is 'Low Scape' and will be 2' tall and wide.

### Winterberry

Why we love it: Late fall/winter interest! These berries are unmistakable. The bright red fruit is excellent for use in cut flower arrangements. The female plants do require a pollinator for fruit production so be sure to talk with nursery staff, or do your research prior to purchasing. This woody shrub does flower although it is rather inconspicuous. Zone 4.



*Low Scape Aronia (picture credit: Spring Meadow Nurseries)*



*Winterberry*

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## **A Walk in the Woods... or Prairie**





If the rain ever does stop, head out to one of our beautiful local parks and see if you can spot these native plants.



*Podophyllum peltatum* - Mayapple



*Anemone canadensis* - Windflower



Pasque Flower (picture credit: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation)



*Trillium cernuum* - Nodding Trillium (picture credit: Forest Service)



*Phlox divaricata - Woodland Phlox*

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## New This Week: Buy One Get Two Free Cole Crops!

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