

New from the Urban Horticulture Institute!

Woody Shrubs for Stormwater Retention Practices

Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regions



A Free 56-page Guide by Ethan Dropkin and Nina Bassuk

Includes an extensive suggested plant list with beautiful photos



Photos by Ethan Dropkin

From the Introduction: "Planted stormwater retention and infiltration practices are important for reducing runoff and maximizing green space in urban areas. While a wide variety of herbaceous plants are often successfully used in these spaces ... they can present maintenance issues because of the need to annually cut back dead foliage and stems. Utilizing woody plants decreases the need for additional seasonal maintenance while successfully adding aesthetic and functional vegetation to stormwater retention practices."

Key Concept: "When selecting plants for stormwater infiltration, common sense would seem to dictate the use of wetland plants. However, due to the rate at which most of these practices allow water to infiltrate, the majority of planted stormwater practices will likely only be inundated for a few minutes after a small storm event, and up to a day or two for a larger event. Unlike most permanent or semi-permanent wetlands, these areas remain relatively dry most of the time. Because of this characteristic, plants that can handle both temporary inundation and relatively protracted drought are the best choices for a low-maintenance planting."

http://www.hort.cornell.edu/uhi/outreach/pdfs/woody_shrubs_stormwater_hi_res.pdf

