How is my rain garden doing?

The purpose of this guide is to help you maintain the beauty, health and performance of your rain garden. See below for general gardening tips, to be done as needed. The following pages include seasonal tips, to be done at a specific time of year, recommended native plants for your garden, and weeds to watch out for. With proper care, your garden will continue to help keep our lakes and the Mississippi River clean by capturing runoff and removing pollution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions?</th>
<th>IF YES, perform these recommended tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is there flooding for more than two days (48 hours) after rainfall?</td>
<td>Rain garden is not functioning and requires assistance. Please contact CRWD (email and phone below).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is anything blocking the flow of water into the garden through the inlet?</td>
<td>Remove dirt, weeds and other debris from the inlet regularly and after each rainfall. Sand and dirt from the street should go in the trash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has dirt, leaves, trash or other debris collected in the garden?</td>
<td>Remove and dispose of excess dirt and debris. Sand and dirt from the street should be thrown out with the trash. Leaves and stems can be composted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there erosion or bare soil in the garden?</td>
<td>Select and add plants based on your sun, shade and soil moisture conditions. Refer to Blue Thumb’s Plant Finder for more information on planting conditions: blue-thumb.org/plants. Replenish mulch in bare spots to prevent weeds or erosion. 3” layer of double-shredded hardwood mulch is recommended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do the plants need more water?</td>
<td>After planting, water every day for one week unless it rains that day. During the first growing season, water weekly with 1” of water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are weeds present?</td>
<td>Pull out weeds by the roots. Refer to inside pictures of common weeds. Visit “Is this plant a weed?” online at apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/weed/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Seasonal Garden Care

## SPRING 🌿
- Remove dead plants, seeds, stalks and any decaying material.
- Thin or prune over-crowded/overgrown plants.
- Clear inlets or pipes of any obstructing materials from winter.
- Add, move, or divide plants if crowded or bare spots visible.
- Weed mid- to late-May, before Memorial Day, or when dandelions first turn yellow.

## SUMMER 🌿
- Prune decaying, unattractive, or taller plants.
- Check for erosion, ponding or flooding after big storms.
- Remove warm season weeds by the 4th of July and late summer weeds by mid-August.
- Prune shrubs and plant stalks when dormant after first frost.

## FALL 🍂
- Remove or replace plants, especially poor performing ones.
- Clean up leaves from garden or inlet.
- Prune shrubs and plant stalks when dormant after first frost.
- If desired, leave native plants for winter as food and cover for wildlife.

## WINTER ❄️
- Replace mulch in early winter where needed.
- Remove trash and debris.
- Avoid snow piles or chemicals on garden (i.e. salt).
- Prepare gardening tools for spring!
CRWD Recommended Native Perennials

- Cardinal Flower
- Sensitive Fern
- Pink Turtlehead
- Prairie Blazing Star
- Little Bluestem
- Swamp Milkweed
- Blue Flag Iris
- Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle
- Butterfly Weed
- Fox Sedge
- Purple Dome Aster
- Prairie Dropseed
Common Rain Garden Weeds

Refer to Blue Thumb’s Plant Finder for more information on planting conditions: blue-thumb.org/plants.