Gardening Guide



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. This guide includes general gardening tips, seasonal care tips, recommended native plants, and common weeds. With proper care, your garden will continue to help keep our lakes and the Mississippi River clean by capturing runoff and removing pollution.

Questions?	IF YES, perform these recommended tasks
Is there flooding for more than two days (48 hours) after rainfall?	The rain garden is not functioning and requires assistance. Please contact CRWD (phone and website below
Is anything blocking the flow of water into the garden through the inlet?	Remove dirt, weeds and other debris from the inlet regularly and after each rainfall. Put sand and dirt from the street in the trash.
Has dirt, leaves, trash or other debris collected in the garden?	Remove and dispose of excess dirt and debris. Put sand and dirt from the street in the trash. You can compos leaves and stems.
Is there erosion or bare soil in the garden?	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. Add a three-inch layer of double shredded hardwood mulch in bare spots to prevent weeds or erosion.
Do the plants need more water?	After planting, water every day for one week unless it rains that day. During the first growing season, water weekly with one inch of water.
Are weeds present?	Pull out weeds by the roots. Refer to inside pictures of common weeds. Visit "Is this plant a weed?" at apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/weed



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Seasonal Garden Care



SPRING

- Remove dead plants, seeds, stalks and any decaying material.
- Thin or prune overcrowded/overgrown plants.
- Clear inlets or pipes of any obstructing materials from winter.



- Add, move, or divide plants if crowded or bare spots are 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.



FALL *

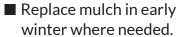
- Remove or replace plants, especially poorperforming ones.
- Clean up leaves from garden or inlet.



- Prune shrubs and plant stalks when dormant after the first frost.
- If desired, leave native plants for winter as food and cover for wildlife.



WINTER ≉





Remove trash and debris.



- Avoid snow piles or chemicals like salt in garden.
- Prepare gardening tools for spring!









CRWD Recommended Native Perennials





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

Common Rain Garden Weeds



For additional information on weeds, visit "Is this plant a weed?" online at apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/weed/