



The first two years of maintenance are critical to the long term success of your rain garden. A little extra care at the beginning will go a long way towards ensuring that your new rain garden is healthy and functional for years to come.

In addition to the checklist below, perform the following two tasks throughout the first two years after rain garden construction:

- Water your rain garden once a week, or as needed depending on rain fall.
- Watch for bare or eroding areas in the rain garden or contributing area and stabilize by reseeding or adjusting garden slopes with soil and mulch.

After the first two years just follow the guide below to maintain a beautiful rain garden.

## RAIN GARDEN MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Clean gutters of downspout contributing to rain garden and dispose of waste.	💧						
Clean out (with a shovel or by hand) and dispose of any sand, silt and roof shingle grit collected in inlet.	💧						
Prune seed head, shrubs and grasses in Fall or Spring, according to plant instructions.	💧					💧	
Replace any plants that have died during the previous season.			💧				
Repair erosion around and within the rain garden with rocks, seed or plants, as appropriate, to redirect the flow and reinforce the slope.			💧				
Redistribute any mulch that has shifted, and replenish mulch to maintain depth listed in your rain garden plan.			💧				
Remove trash, debris and lawn clippings from inlet, rain garden and overflow.	← WHEN NEEDED →						
Pull weeds; consider marking plants to differentiate while they become established.	← WHEN NEEDED →						
Rake and bag/compost leaves from lawn area contributing to rain garden before snow arrives in the Fall.							💧
Remove fallen leaves from inlet and overflow using a leaf blower or rake.							💧



TIPS FOR CORRECTING COMMON RAIN GARDEN ISSUES

Erosion at inlet	Repair erosion at the inlet by adding larger rocks to withstand and decrease the force of the flow from the downspout.
Erosion at overflow	Repair eroded areas with soil and rocks or straw matting. Reinforce area with sod or other ground cover plants.
Sediment is accumulating in the inlet	Check the area that drains to the rain garden for bare soil and immediately stabilize with seed, plants, sod or other ground cover. Use edging or a berm to prevent continued erosion of the suspect area. Sweep up sand/gravel used on sidewalks during the winter months as soon as the snow is gone.
Plants are dying	Confirm that downspouts are clear and directing water to the rain garden. During drought conditions, water plants as needed. If pests or disease are suspected, consult with a local nursery for natural management methods.
Water is ponding longer than 24 hours after a rainfall	Lower the elevation of the outlet to drain the rain garden faster.
Invasive plants and nuisance weeds are infiltrating garden	Remove weeds by hand, including roots if possible, before they are able to flower or produce seed heads. Plant ground cover plants, or increase the density of plantings in the garden to crowd out the weeds. Healthy plants will choke out unwanted weeds over time.
Rain garden is getting wild	Prune plants back as recommended for each species. Consult your local nursery if you are unsure of a species' pruning procedure. Consider allowing the seed heads to stand through the winter as food for the birds and prune in early spring when possible. Do NOT fertilize or apply compost to your rain garden. It does NOT require added nutrients. Divide, thin and remove extra plants. Share extras with friends!

