

Maintaining a Rain Garden

(Used with permission from Rain Garden Network and Bonestroo)

Rain gardens are not completely maintenance-free. After your rain garden is planted and established you may never need to water it or add any type of fertilizer or pesticide. It is important, however, to weed, clean-up, and re-mulch the garden in the early spring and fall. The first two years require the most care while plants are establishing themselves in the garden.

Seasonal Clean-Up material & mulching

In spring, you will need to clean-up the rain garden by removing any dead material and replenishing the mulch. The mulch will need to be raked periodically. In the fall, it is important to remove some of the dead vegetation. You might wish to leave some of the material and seed bearing plants for bird habitat in the winter.

Removing dead



Inlet Clean-Up

Remove trash and debris that has washed into the garden. Use a broom to sweep up sand and debris at the inlet and dispose of properly.

Sweeping up sand & debris



First Season Care

The most important work during the first year of the rain garden is watering. A young garden will need about an inch of water per week until it is established.

Watering

Weekly Care

All rain gardens need weeding. As the garden matures, weeds will be pushed out by the growing plants. Pulling weeds reduces competition for space, light, and water.

Weeding

More Information

For more information, visit the following websites:

- Crystal Environmental Quality Commission at [http://www.ci.crystal.mn.us/city_government/environmental_quality_commission\(egc\).html](http://www.ci.crystal.mn.us/city_government/environmental_quality_commission(egc).html)
- National Gardening Association at <http://www.garden.org/home>
- Kids Gardening at <http://kidsgardening.com/>
- Weed Library at <http://garden.org/weedlibrary/>