

DOWNSPOUT PLANTER MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Now that your downspout planter has been installed and planted, what's next?

WATER

Water is essential for the survival of your new stormwater planter. Plants should be watered every day for the first week they are in the planter box and then once a week after that, unless there is substantial rainfall. In hot weather or times of drought, the planter box will need water one to two times a week to prevent the loss of plants, even if the plants are already established.

WEEDS

Please remove unwanted weeds from the planter by hand. Pull them from the base of the weed to remove the roots. As your planter becomes established, the plants will spread and out-compete unwanted weeds.



MULCH

Mulch is used to prevent weeds and retain moisture in the stormwater planter. During the first year the plants are growing, please maintain a 3" layer of mulch between plants. As your plants spread and become more dense, you may find mulching the planter more difficult. Mulching beyond the first year is optional. Please be careful not to excessively mulch the planter, and keep mulch away from drains.

DRAINAGE

Please inspect the stormwater planter's drains monthly, and be sure to remove any leaves, trash, or debris that may prevent water from passing through. After rainstorms, please check the planter to be sure drainage paths are clear and that water is not ponding for more than 48 hours.

SUPPLEMENTAL PLANTING

Please remove and replace any dead plants in the planter as needed.

PRUNING

We recommend pruning overgrown material in the planter annually when the plants are dormant.

PHOTOGRAPH AND DOCUMENT

Please photograph your green infrastructure practice and share pictures with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program! In addition, document the maintenance of the practice, and be sure to contact RCE Water Resources Program at water@envsci.rutgers.edu if you need assistance or have any questions.

For more information, please visit:
www.water.rutgers.edu