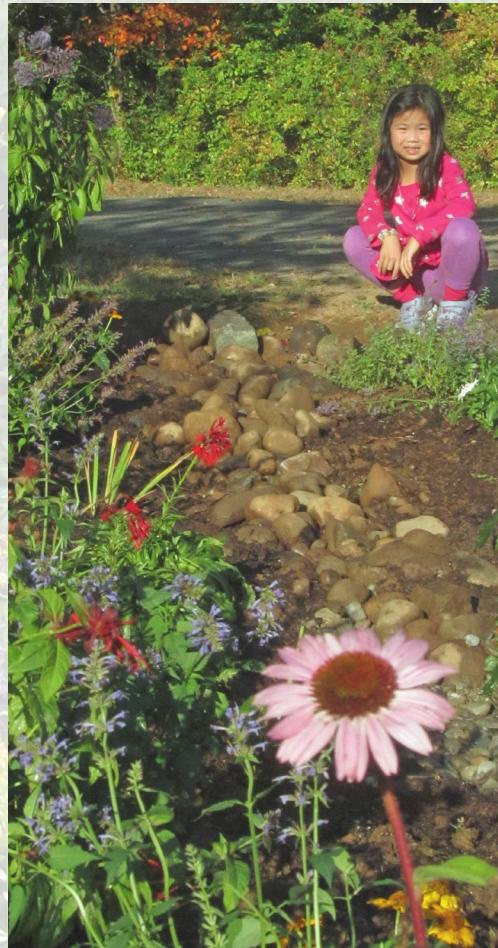


BIORETENTION (RAINGARDEN) MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Now that your rain garden has been planted, whats next?



WATER

Water is essential for the survival of your new rain garden. Please water the garden during the first three months post-planting and as needed throughout the future in times of drought. Plants should be watered every day for the first week they are in the ground and then once a week after that, unless there is substantial rainfall. In hot weather or times of drought, the rain garden will need water one to two times a week to prevent the loss of plants, even if the garden is already established.

WEEDS

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

MULCH

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

INLETS/OUTLETS

Please inspect the rain garden's inlets monthly, and be sure to remove any leaves, trash, or debris that may prevent water from passing through. Observe the inlet during rainstorms to make sure stormwater is flowing into the rain garden. After rainstorms, please check the garden to be sure drainage outlet paths are clear and that water is not ponding for more than 48 hours.



NO MOWING

Please DO NOT mow or use a line-trimmer inside of the rain garden. This damages the plants and can destroy the rain garden.

SUPPLEMENTAL PLANTING

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

PRUNING

We recommend pruning overgrown material in the garden 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