

## General Overview for Maintenance – Rain Gardens/Bioswales

- Keep the input and overflow clean and free of debris
- Check periodically to be sure the rain garden is draining and there is not an impermeable “crust” on the surface
- Don’t use inorganic fertilizer, use compost
- Don’t use pesticides

### *Basic maintenance is the same as any other garden:*

- Water during establishment and during drought
- Maintain a 2–4” layer of organic mulch
- Keep garden/bioswale weeded at all times
- Remove any dead and/or unsightly plant parts
- Don’t remove dormant plant parts until early spring
- Always maintain a clean edge

## Sample Schedules for Maintenance

MONTH(S)	MAINTENANCE	WEEKLY	MONTHLY
Jan–Feb	Check for and remove trash and debris	X	
Mar–May	Remove dead plant parts; replace any mulch where needed; thin any crowded/overgrown plants		X
	Check for erosion and excessive ponding <b>during storms</b>		as needed
	Weed; water during drought; tidy up garden as needed	X	
	Plant/replant as needed	X	
June–Aug	Check for erosion and excessive ponding <b>during storms</b>		as needed
	Weed; water during drought; tidy up garden as needed	X	
Sept–Oct	Check for erosion and excessive ponding <b>during storms</b>		as needed
	Weed; water during drought	X	
	Plant/replant as needed	X	
	*Check pH 1x/year-adjust if necessary as indicated by test		*1x/yr
Nov–Dec	Replace mulch where needed		X

**WEEKLY: in season**

- Weed
- Water as needed
- Check for and fix erosion
- Keep a tidy look in the garden(s)
- Inspection for good general appearance of area/gardens

**MONTHLY**

- Clean out any trash, debris etc., especially at input/output of rain gardens and bioswales

**SPRING & FALL**

- Replace mulch where needed
- Plant/replant as needed
- Scratch surface to prevent “crust”

**ANNUALLY**

- Check pH; adjust as indicated