

Typical Rainscaping Maintenance Schedule

Watering

- Water newly established plants as needed for six months after they are planted, even in winter.
- Water plants during drought conditions.

Weeding

Monitor planting beds for invasive species at least once a month in the spring, summer and fall. Some weeds, especially cool season weeds in spring and fall, can grow and go to seed within a one-month period. The main focus is to remove the roots and eliminate the plant before it sets ripe seed.

Mulching

Typically a 1-3" mulch layer is re-applied annually. Mulch protects the soil. An adequate mulch layer plays a vital role in the overall effectiveness of a planting bed, both aesthetically and functionally.

- May reduce up to 70% of summer maintenance work.
- Prevents soil from drying out and helps to insulate it against temperature extremes.
- Helps prevent erosion from overland sheet flow.
- Maintains soil structure, helping to prevent soil compaction over time.
- Gives the area a finished look and helps it blend in with surrounding landscaped areas.
- Replenishes the organic matter in the soil over time.
- May not be necessary within areas that have filled in, like ground cover. In this case, mulch is typically used only around the edges and on exposed soil surfaces.

Mulch applied any deeper than 3 inches reduces proper oxygen and carbon dioxide cycling between the soil and the atmosphere.

Fertilization

Native plants do not require high levels of fertility in the soil. Fertilizers, especially those high nitrogen and high phosphorus, can be a source of pollution if they run off into the creek. If the plants have healthy green growth and bloom well, most likely they do not need any additional fertilizer. Excess fertilization leads to weak plant growth, promotes disease and pest outbreaks, and inhibits soil life. If soil fertility is in doubt, a basic soil test can resolve the question. If fertilization should become necessary, an organic fertilizer (i.e. compost) will provide nutrients as needed without disrupting soil life.

Trimming

Leaving ornamental grasses and seed heads standing will provide winter interest, bird foraging opportunities, and homes for beneficial insects. Plants can be cut back in early spring when new growth commences. Plants may be pinched, pruned, sheared or dead-headed during the growing season to encourage more flowering, a bushier plant, or a fresh set of leaves.

Diseased or damaged plant parts should be removed as they occur, by digging up the entire plant and disposing in trash.

Schedule

	MAINTENANCE	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	ANNUALLY
Jan-Dec	Water recently established plants or during a drought.	X		
Feb-Aug	Trim or prune plants as needed.		X	
March	Cut down and remove dead leaves, stems and seed heads from perennials and grasses if still remaining.			X
March-May	Plant/replant if needed.			X
March-Nov	Weed every 3-4 weeks. Remove invasive species.		X	
March-Nov	Replace mulch where needed.			X
Sept-Oct	Plant/replant if needed.			X
Sept-Oct	Check pH/soil fertility if plants show signs of nutrient deficiency.			X
Sept-Dec	Leaf removal as needed.	X		