



RAIN GARDEN MAINTENANCE NOTES:

(Excerpt from New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual)

Rain gardens are intended to be relatively low maintenance. However, these practices may be subject to sedimentation and invasive plant species which could create maintenance problems. If the recharge ability is lost by accumulation of fine sediment, mosquito breeding may occur.

Adequate arrangements for long-term maintenance of these systems and updated inventories of their location are essential for the long-term performance of these practices. Rain gardens should be treated as a component of the landscaping, with routine maintenance specified through a legally binding maintenance agreement.

Routine maintenance may include the occasional replacement of plants, mulching, weeding and thinning to maintain the desired appearance. Weeding and watering are essential the first year, and can be minimized with the use of a weedfree mulch layer. Studies have found that rain gardens, especially when native plants are used, are well accepted if they appear orderly and well maintained. Homeowners and landscapers must be educated regarding the purpose and maintenance requirements of the rain garden, so the desirable aspects of ponded water are recognized and maintained.

Select lower growing species that stay upright. Keep plants pruned if they start to get leggy and floppy. Cut off old flower heads after a plant is done blooming. Keeping the garden weeded is one of the most important tasks, especially in the first couple of years while the native plants are establishing their root systems. Once the rain garden has matured, the garden area should be free of bare areas except where stepping stones are located.

Inspect for sediment accumulations or heavy organic matter where runoff enters the garden and remove as necessary. The top few inches of planting soil should be removed and replaced when water ponds for more than 48 hours. Blockages may cause diversion of flow around the garden. If the garden overflow device is an earthen berm or lip, check for erosion and repair as soon as possible. If this continues, a harder armoring of stone may be necessary. Make sure all appropriate elevations have been maintained, no settlement has occurred and no low spots have been created.

PLANTING SCHEDULE

Symbol	Name	Qty.
	Illex verticillata Winterberry	4
	Clethra alnifolia Sweet Pepperbush	2
	Rudbeckia laciniata Cutleaf Cone Flower	6
	Hamamelis virginiana Witchhazel	6
	Viburnum dentatum Arrowwood	4

NOTE: PLANT SELECTION COMPLIES WITH "NEW YORK STATE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DESIGN MANUAL" AND "TOWN OF MOUNT PLEASANT CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL – NATIVE PLANT RESOURCE GUIDE" RECOMMENDATIONS.

Suggested Rain Garden Plant List	
Shrubs	Herbaceous Plants
Witch Hazel	Cinnamon Fern
Hamamelis virginiana	Osmunda cinnamomca
Winterberry	Cutleaf Coneflower
Illex verticillata	Rudbeckia laciniata
Arrowwood	Woolgrass
Viburnum dentatum	Scirpus cyperinus
Brook-side Alder	New England Aster
Alnus serrulata	Aster novae-angliae
Red-Osier Dogwood	Fox Sedge
Cornus stolonifera	Carex vulpinoidea
Sweet Pepperbush	Spotted Joe-Pye Weed
Clethra alnifolia	Eupatorium maculatum
	Switch Grass
	Panicum virgatum
	Great Blue Lobelia
	Lobelia siphatica
	Wild Bergamot
	Monarda fistulosa
	Red Milkweed
	Asclepias incarnate
Adapted from NYSDM Bioretention Specifications, Bannerman, Brooklyn Botanic Garden.	