 **Rain Garden**

**MAINTENANCE GUIDE**

 

phillywatersheds.org/raincheck

**General Maintenance Checklist**

* Water plants 2-3 times per week for first growing season.
* Water plants weekly during dry periods after first growing season. Deep, infrequent watering is preferable to shallow, frequent watering.
* After the first growing season, the rain garden can be watered less frequently (only during extended dry periods).
* If plants start to wilt, this is most likely an indication they are not getting enough water.
* Remove weeds from rain garden (every 1-2 weeks during first growing season, as needed for rest of year).
* As plants grow to surpass weeds, weeding can be performed less frequently (every 3-4 months by third year).
* Add mulch every spring to maintain a 3-inch layer of in the rain garden.
* Each spring, prune dead vegetation, deadhead flowers, and cut back tattered or unwieldy plants.
* Remove or replace vegetation that is not thriving and consider planting more of a species that is performing well. For replacement plants, ask your local garden center for native, drought-tolerant perennial species. A recommended species list is available at,

[www.phillywatersheds.org/raincheck](http://www.phillywatersheds.org/raincheck), go to “Contractor’s Resources,” “Plants for Rain Gardens & Downspout Planters.”

* Remove sediment and other debris from rain garden. Particular attention should be paid to keeping the water inlet and overflow locations clear.
* If all steps are taken and the rain garden is still not thriving, consider infiltration testing to determine drainage capacity of the soil and/or soil testing to determine correct pH level of soil. Soil testing kits are sold at most landscaping supply stores and big box home improvement stores.