

Rain Garden Maintenance Schedule

January/February

- Monitor
- Snow/salt management
- Clear snow from inlet/outlet

March

- Inspect and correct
- Remove leaves
- Remove winter weeds
- Prune dead branches
- Cut back perennials and grasses

April

- Inspect and correct
- Apply compost and/or mulch
- Prune shrubs selectively (if needed)

May

- Inspect and correct
- Apply deer repellent (if needed)
- Prune shrubs selectively (if needed)

June

- Inspect and correct
- Apply deer repellent (if needed)
- Prune shrubs selectively (if needed)

July

- Inspect and correct
- Apply deer repellent (if needed)

August

- Inspect and correct
- Apply deer repellent (if needed)

September

- Inspect and correct

October

- Inspect and correct
- Remove excess leaves
- Cut back perennials (limited)

November

- Inspect and correct
- Remove excess leaves
- Apply mulch for winter protection
- Snow/salt management

December

- Monitor
- Snow/salt management
- Clear snow from inlet/outlet

Monitor = Check for problems, remove trash and debris
Snow/salt management = Avoid placing snow on rain garden. Limit use of salt/deicing agents in vicinity
Inspect and correct = Use inspection checklist. Additional inspections required after severe storms and during droughts
Prune shrubs selectively = Prune to enhance flowering and shape according to species recommendations (including timing)
Cut back perennials (limited) = To tidy garden only. Leave some stems and heads for habitat (cover and food).
Remove excess leaves = Dense leaf layers will inhibit infiltration. Some remaining leaves will insulate and protect winter roots

Retest soil pH levels every 2 to 3 years and readjust, if necessary

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