



Worcester Residential Rain Garden Training Program

June 23-24, 2011

RAIN GARDEN MAINTENANCE



INITIAL THINGS TO CONSIDER

- A rain garden will not require as much care as lawn area but will need some maintenance to ensure long-term success
- Weekly maintenance: watering, weeding
- Annual maintenance: mulching, pruning, mowing, re-planting, soil testing



REMEMBER: Rain gardens are **LOW** maintenance gardens, not **NO** maintenance gardens!

WEEKLY MAINTENANCE

- Water plants regularly, particularly during dry periods of the first growing season
- Remember that young, small plants are most vulnerable to stress
- Be careful that the plants don't get too wet or too dry



REMEMBER TO TAKE PICTURES BEFORE,
DURING, AND AFTER INSTALLATION!



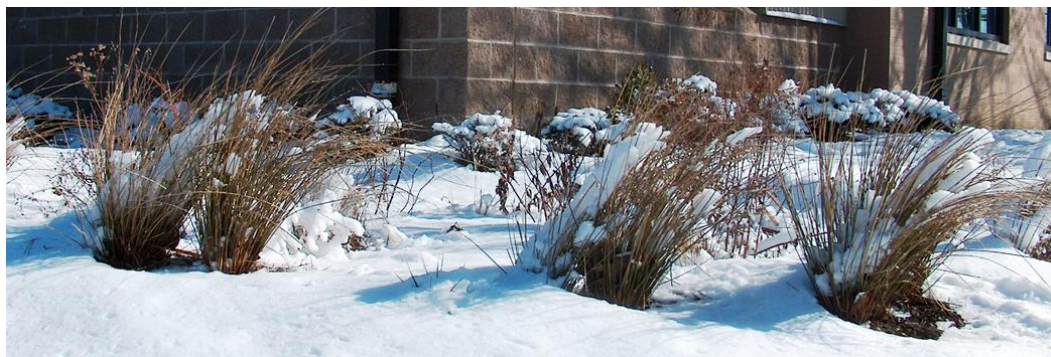
WEEDING

- During the first few years, you will probably need to weed often during the growing season
- You will need to weed less and less as the plants grow and surpass the weeds
- Watch out for the most aggressive native plants and invasive weed species

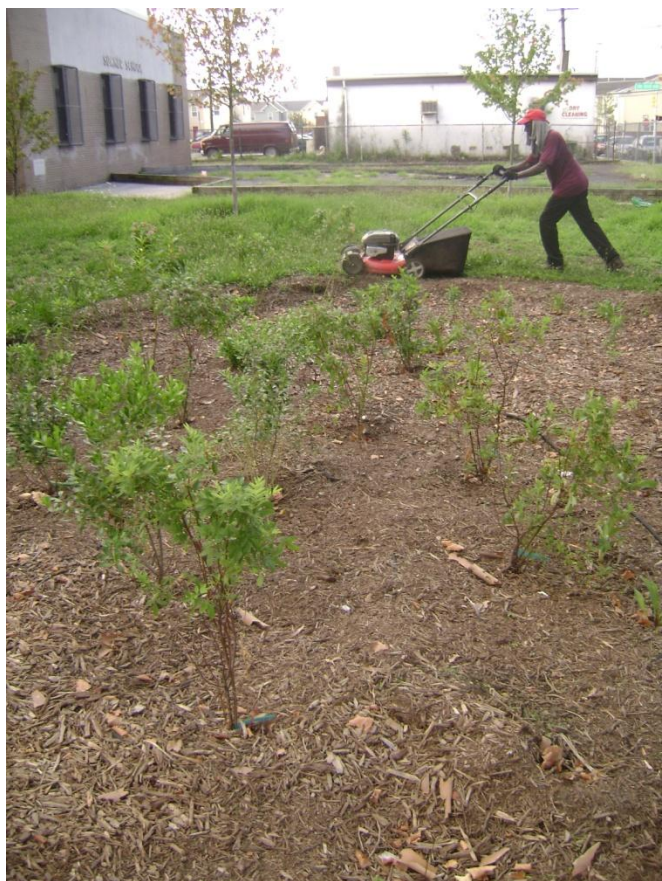


ANNUAL MAINTENANCE

- **MULCHING**
 - Add mulch every spring to maintain a three inch mulch layer on your rain garden
- **PRUNING**
 - Each spring, prune dead vegetation, deadhead flowers, and cut back tattered or unwieldy plants
- **REPLANTING**
 - Remove or replace plant material that is not thriving



ANNUAL MAINTENANCE



- **SEDIMENT REMOVAL**
 - Occasionally use a flat shovel to remove any excess sediment, leaves, or debris
- **SOIL TESTING**
 - Remember to retest the soil every 3-5 years and make appropriate amendments
- **FERTILIZING**
 - Fertilizing is NOT part of maintaining your rain garden!

BEFORE/AFTER MAINTENANCE



BEFORE



AFTER

A RAIN GARDEN OVER TIME



At time of installation

Springfield Township Municipal Annex Building
Springfield, NJ



First growing season



Second growing season



Third growing season



Fourth growing season

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