

Rain Garden Maintenance Guidelines

Now that your rain garden has been planted, what's next?

WATER

Water is essential for the survival of your new rain garden. Please water the garden during the first three months post-planting and as needed throughout the future in times of drought. Plants should be watered **every day for the first week they are in the ground** and then **once a week after that**, unless there is substantial rainfall. In hot weather or times of drought, the rain garden will need water one to two times a week to prevent the loss of plants, even if the garden is already established.

WEED

Please remove unwanted weeds from the garden by hand. Pull them from the base of the weed to remove the roots. As your garden becomes established, the rain garden plants will spread and out-compete unwanted weeds.

MULCH

Mulch is used to prevent weeds and retain moisture in the rain garden. During the first year the garden is growing, please maintain a **3" layer of mulch between plants**. As your rain garden plants spread and become denser, you may find mulching the garden more difficult. Mulching beyond the first year is optional. Please be careful not to excessively mulch the garden, and **keep mulch away from drains**.

DRAINAGE

Please inspect the rain garden's drains monthly, and be sure to remove any leaves, trash, or debris that may prevent water from passing through. After rainstorms, please check the garden to be sure drainage paths are clear and that water is not ponding for more than 48 hours.

NO MOWING

Please **DO NOT** mow or use a line-trimmer inside of the rain garden. This damages the plants and can destroy the rain garden.

SUPPLEMENTAL PLANTING

Please remove and replace any dead plants in the garden as needed.

PRUNING

We recommend pruning overgrown material in the garden annually when the plants are dormant.

PHOTOGRAPH AND DOCUMENT

Please photograph the progress of the garden and share pictures with the Camden SMART Team! In addition, please document the maintenance needs of the garden and be sure to contact Camden SMART for assistance at 856-287-4488 if you needed with any of the functions above.

