

# Rain Garden Maintenance

---

## Description

Rain gardens are a type of landscaping used to help capture runoff from roofs, driveways, and sidewalks, each of which prevent rainwater from absorbing into the ground. These are special types of gardens that have a depression in the middle to collect stormwater. Various types of plants will take up the excess nutrients that are carried in rainwater as well as make it easier for it to absorb into the soil.

Stormwater sometimes flows too quickly to be absorbed into the ground. When this happens, it can pick up pollutants on the way that will make it to local waterways and eventually into the Chesapeake Bay. Rain gardens are functional pieces of a landscape that can help reduce the amount of pollutants getting into the Bay, control erosion and flooding, and provide a habitat for wildlife all while boosting the appearance of a property.



## Required & Recommended Maintenance

- During the first Spring and Summer, water your plants with at least 1 inch of water per week until they take root. Remember to always water them during dry periods.
- Remove weeds, sand, and sediment periodically that may have entered the garden.
- Replace the mulch with three inches of new mulch once a year or if water pools for more than two days after rain. Rake the mulch twice every Spring.
- Prune dead stems and leaves once a year and replace any dead or diseased plants.
- Note where water enters the rain garden and keep it clear of blockages. Place rocks here to slow water flow and prevent your garden from getting washed out by heavy rainfall.
- If certain plants are not surviving in your garden, more appropriate species should be used. Plants used should be native to your region and should be able to withstand periods of flooding as well as periods of dryness.

