

# Raingarden Maintenance Calendar

## Early Spring

- Remove winter mulches (after danger of hard frost is past)
- Cut back plants (minimize compaction by using pathways)
- Remove weeds (including roots, so use right tools)
- Add mulch (if needed)
- Prune shrubs (dead wood only)

## Notes about pruning shrubs:

- *Summer flowering shrubs* bloom on new growth produced in the current growing season, so are best pruned in winter or early spring so as not to prune flower buds. For example, prune red-twigged dogwood (*Cornus*), smooth hydrangea (*Hydrangea*), chokeberries (*Aronia*) and summersweet (*Clethra*), spirea.
- *Spring flowering shrubs* bloom on old wood and these shrubs should be pruned right after they bloom. Flower buds will form during the summer and the fall. e.g., Forsythia

## Mid to Late Spring

- Add plants
- Avoid fertilizing
- Water if dry
- Prune
- Attend to tall plants (staking and cutting back some species; e.g., *Boltonia*, *Echinacea*, *Eupatorium*, *Helenium*, *Heliopsis*, *Hibiscus*, *Lobelia*, *Monarda*, *Phlox*, *Physostegia*, *Rudbeckia*, *Symphotrichum*, *Tradescantia*, *Veronica*, *Veronicastrum* (Culver's root))
- Divide plants (most need to be divided every 3-4 years). Spring dividing gives full growing season to recover (*Asclepias* and *Baptisia* do not divide well.)

## Summer

- Weed
- Water (at the ground level near the roots, not from above)
- Deadhead

## Autumn

- Water (at the ground level near the roots)
- Cut (some) plants back
- Apply winter mulch (late in the fall)

## Winter

- Dormant pruning