



A Homeowner's Guide to Terrace Rain Gardens

What to Expect from Us

When we arrive with your plants we will:

- Remove weeds
- Install native plant plugs
- Mulch around native plant plugs
- If necessary, place sandbags on curb cuts to block excess water

The native plants we install will be young. As they settle in and establish their roots they will be vulnerable. Sand bags should be left for the first month to prevent plants from washing out. This step is not necessary for terrace rain basins.



A freshly planted terrace rain garden



Too much water early on can cause gullying and wash out young plants

Early Maintenance

Now it's your turn! During the first month your rain garden will need:

- Watering twice a week if it has not rained
- Protection from large water influxes (sand bags)
- Careful weeding

After a month, sand bags can be removed from curb cut as plants establish their root system.

During the first few summers, weeding your rain garden is critical as native plants establish.

Long-term Maintenance

To keep your rain garden healthy over time you should:

- Remove accumulated dead vegetation. Bonus: doing this in spring rather than fall provides winter habitat for insects and birds!
- Monitor for excess buildup of sediment in the basin of your rain garden. You can dig around plants and excavate this material if needed.
- Monitor for drainage. If your rain garden is taking longer than 48 hours to drain or if water is not flowing into your rain garden from the street, first check that the curb cut is free of material and if problems persist, contact us.



Some rain garden owners prefer to temporarily remove all plants, dig out excess sediment, and then replant the plants.

Resources

- [City of Madison Engineering Department Rain Garden Page](#) (Includes Rain Garden Planting Plans and other useful resources)
- [Professional Maintenance Guide from Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management](#)
- [DNR Rain Garden Manual](#)
- [Prairie Moon Nursery](#) (Great resource to access detailed native plant information and pictures)

Enjoy the Fruits of your Labor!



An eastern tiger swallowtail utilizing a terrace rain garden at the corner of Edgewood Rd and Madison St

A Quick Guide to Common Weeds



Curly Doc (*Rumex crispus*)



Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)



Reed Canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)



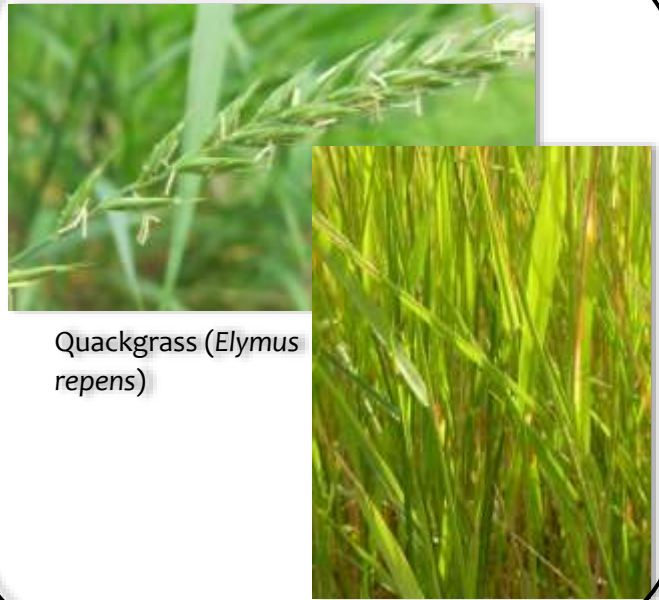
All wood-stemmed species such as maple, green ash, black walnut, and buckthorn should be removed.



Deadly Nighshade
(*Atropa belladonna*)



Goatsbeard (*Tragopogon dubius*)



Quackgrass (*Elymus repens*)



Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)



Common Plantain (*Plantago major*)



Foxtail grass (*Setaria*)



Annual Ragweed
(*Ambrosia artemisifolia*)



Lambsquarters (*Chenopodium album*)



Giant Ragweed
(*Ambrosia trifida*)



Horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*)