Tips to keep your project looking spectacular!
AGENDA

- Maintenance on Raingardens, Shorelines & Native Gardens
  (25 min)

- Identify Plants Outside, Tour Native Planting, Demo Weeding and Dividing Plants.
  (20 min)

Q & A (15 min).
Raingarden (curb cut)
Raingarden (Downspout Disconnect)

Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water
Shoreline Plantings
Value / Function of Natural Shoreland Zone

Shoreland Vegetation
(erosion-control, water quality, wildlife habitat, high plant diversity = high wildlife diversity)

Emergent Vegetation
(water quality, erosion-control & wildlife habitat)

Tree Stumps
(wildlife habitat & water quality)

Drifted-in Logs & Snags
(wildlife habitat, erosion control & water quality)
Native Garden Plantings

- Purple coneflower
- Aster species
- Cardinal Flower
- Yellow coneflower
Incorporate native plants
Native Plants

Sizes and prices

‘Plugs’

$0.70-1.50 ea

4 or 6 plugs per pack
32 or 48 plugs per flat

3-4” pots
$3-5 each
Hauling Mulch:

For picking up, a typical pickup box can hold 1 to 1 ½ cubic yards of mulch.

For drop-off, a delivery fee range for less than 10 yards is typically around $60-75.
Maintenance

Early Spring

Cut Back Winter Stand
Plants left for winter interest can be cut back within a few inches of the ground anytime in the spring.
Remove Sediment and Litter
Trash and dirt that has collected at the inlet can be removed and disposed.
Pop Up Emitter
Weed the Edging
Great time to dig out cool season grasses along the edging and replace with 3” of fresh mulch
Maintenance

Early Spring

Mulching
Applying a thin coat of shredded hardwood mulch is easiest in early spring before the plants emerge.
Dividing Plants

- Plants that have grown 2-3 times their size in 3 years
- Plants outgrowing their space
- “Doughnut” plants
Maintenance

**Spring**

**Dividing**
- Typically when plants are actively growing with some leaf growth
- Dig and remove entire plant
- Split by pulling apart by hand or with potato forks
- Replant, relocate, or share divided plants
Maintenance

Spring

Deer

Bad Bambi!
Spring

Deer

Options to put deer on diets
Maintenance

Spring

Plant Staking
Stakes help tall plants resist falling over
Plant Staking
Stakes help tall plants resist falling over
Weeding
Great time to pull and re-mulch areas that are becoming over run with weeds.
WEEDING

• Limiting the number of species and planting in clusters will make weeding a lot easier
Maintenance

Early Summer

Plant Replacement
Replant areas where plants are not robust.
GOOD UPLAND PLANTS FOR SHADE

Columbine
Wild Geranium
Large Leaf Aster
Bottlebrush Grass
Wild Ginger
Pennsylvania Sedge
GOOD TRANSITIONAL PLANTS

- Swamp Milkweed
- Joe Pye Weed
- Sneezeweed
- New England Aster
- Green Bulrush
- Meadow Blazing Star
- Prairie Cord Grass
- Boneset
Maintenance

Early Summer

Watering
Young raingarden & shoreline plants need about 1” of water per week

• During following years, watering is not needed except under drought conditions
Weeding
Great time to pull and re-mulch areas that are becoming over run with weeds.
Dividing
Iris, lilies, peonies

- Mark plants that need to be divided for easy identification in the spring
Maintenance
Late Summer/Fall

Flower Bouquets
• Can use fresh or dried flowers
Seed Collection
Great source of new plants next spring!
Maintenance

Fall

Leave Some Standing

Creates seasonal interest and provides habitat and a food source
Watering for new raingardens

• Water into the fall to keep adequate soil moisture
• During dry periods, keep plants watered (especially trees and shrubs) until ground freezes
Rabbit Protection
Bad bunny!

Winter
Maintenance

Winter

Rabbit Protection
Options for protecting plants from bad bunnies.
Pruning
- Maintain size and shape of a tree or shrub
- To encourage new growth
- Remove dead, broken, or diseased branches
- Produce larger fruits or flowers
- Remove suckers or spindly growth

Late Winter/Early Spring Maintenance
Pruning Technique
• Typically when the plant is dormant
• Use hand pruner or loppers
• Make a clean angle cut just above a bud
Use Local Knowledge

- Master Gardener Plant Clinics
- University of Minnesota Extension
- Local nurseries
- Washington Conservation District
- MN DNR
Maintenance

Resources

Publications

- Maintenance Guide
- Plant Identification Field Guides (Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District)
Thank you!

Questions?

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(Site visits, cost Share grants & project design)