

RAIN GARDENS & BAYSCAPING

First Two Weeks after planting

Water all plants every day for the first 14 days after planting

First Two Years

- Water plants regularly if there has not been a significant recent rainfall (mid-March through December)
- Cover any bare spots with mulch
- Weed the garden area and around planted trees as needed (at least 4 times a year)
- Watch out for erosion and repair it before soil and mulch wash away
- Replace any broken stakes or wires
- Keep an eye on trees and shrubs for pests or disease and call the District of Columbia Cooperative Extension Service at (202) 274-7115 to find out how to handle the problem

Each Year in Late Winter (February to Early March)

Prune dead branches from trees and shrubs

Every Spring (April 15-May 30)

- Take out all dead and dying plants (remember that many of your plants naturally die back each year and return in the Spring)
 - Put in new plants to replace dead ones. Please plant only native perennial plants that are adapted to the conditions appropriate to your garden. If you have questions, please contact DDOE at 202-535-2246
- Add new mulch (every two to three years, take out old mulch before adding new)

Every Fall (October 1-November 30)

- Remove stakes from tree(s) two years after planting
- Take out all dead and dying plants
- Put in new shrubs or trees to replace dead ones. Again, please plant only native trees and shrubs that are adapted to your garden's conditions

Watering Tips

A heavy soaking 2-3 times a week is needed, if it has not rained heavily. A soaker hose or gentle spray that waters slowly is best. New plants need about an inch of water a week. To see if watering is needed, clear away the mulch and poke a stick or screwdriver into the soil. If it does not go down 6 inches, you need to water.