**Planting Tips**

1. Plant in large groupings. Use 3, 5, 7, 9 or more of the same plant in a large group – this looks more appealing and it is easier to weed later on.

2. Plan how you want your garden to be shaped – do you want to put large plants in the middle and taper off to the sides or have a wall of tall plants at the back of your garden with smaller ones towards the front? There’s no wrong answer here – just check the heights and widths of your plant choices and how you would like them look when they are all together.

3. Using native plants means you don’t have to do as much work to keep them alive. A native plant has evolved to live in our climate. They can handle times of drought, rain, heat and cold.

4. Choose plants that bloom at different times of the year. This will give you color throughout the seasons and provide food sources for bees, butterflies, and birds.

5. Don’t be afraid to try something new. If you find something you like, buy one and see how it works in your yard. If it does well, you can add more. Gardening should be fun and relaxing.

**Maintenance Tips**

1. Expect to weed your gardens 3 times a year – especially the first couple of growing seasons until the plants are established and have gotten large enough to shade out the invasive weeds.

2. Water your garden – it will need 1 inch per week for the first couple of growing seasons.

3. Expect to lose 10% of your plants in any given year. Plants die from environmental conditions, disease, pests, or just “old age”.

4. Clean out the inflow and overflow areas of your raingarden each spring to ensure that water can enter and exit.

5. In the fall you can cut back the dead plant material or leave it up for winter interest and then cut it in the spring.