

Raingarden Maintenance Guide

Vadnais Heights Elementary

Common weeds found in the raingarden:



Vines: Bind weed



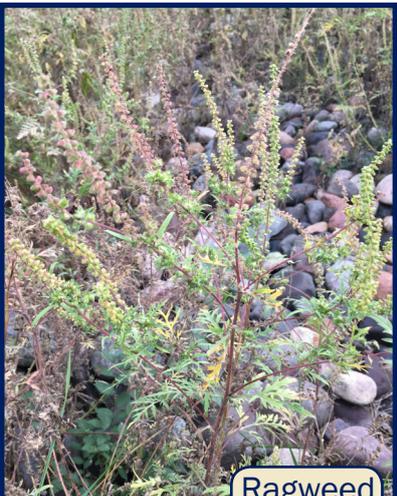
Thistles: Canada, sow



Trees: Siberian elm, ash, etc.



Dandelions & clovers



Ragweed

Even if trees are native, they're not part of this raingarden's design and should be pulled.

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Plants that belong in the raingarden:



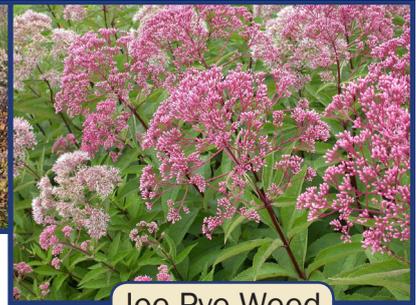
Compass Plant



Little & Big Bluestem



Prairie Dock



Joe Pye Weed



Butterfly Milkweed



Sedges



Coneflower



Blazing Star

The raingarden still works in winter, too! The native plants act as valuable food and cover for wildlife. Many insects bore into the stems to lay eggs for next year.



Weeding:

Typical weeding periods are Spring and Fall. Targeting mid to late May as well as early to mid August prevents the weeds from going to seed. Turf grass often encroaches into the garden, and shows up as individual, short (2-5") blades of grass that are connected at the roots. Dense, "bunchy", and long grasses in this garden are actually sedges, which are intentionally planted in groups.

When weeding, try to disturb the soil as little as possible and re-cover bare soil with mulch to keep new weeds from seeding.



Mulch:

Sometimes raingardens can use fresh mulch in bare areas. Mulch should be about 3" thick and should be kept two inches away from the base of the plants in order to promote air circulation and prevent disease. As raingardens mature, the larger plants crowd out weeds and reduce the need for mulch.

Mulch should be double-shredded hardwood mulch, which lasts longer, doesn't float when inundated with water, and inter-locks to block weeds.

Spring Care:

Dead plant material should be pulled out in the early Spring to make space for new growth. Doing so before the new growth sprouts and the ground is still cold prevents plants from being trampled.

Other Maintenance:

Weed-whip around the perimeter and beneath the sign.

Keep rocks clear from all plants and debris.

Keep under drain (on opposite side from sign) clear of debris, as this could clog overflow drainage.

Spring/Fall Comparison:

Spring: Dead material gets removed and weeded. Rocks are clear, mulch covers bare soil.

Fall: Plants are dense but garden is weeded and maintained around the edges.

