



MINNESOTA WATER
LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN



AUTUMN TIPS FOR YOUR RAIN GARDEN

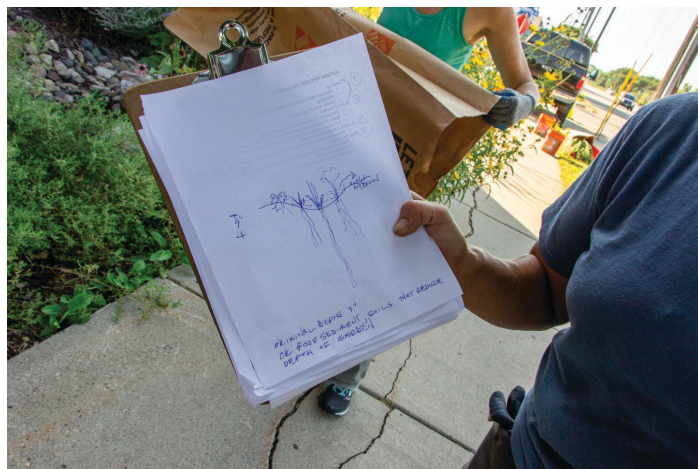
Roxanne Stuhr, Master Water Steward and owner of GreenSpace: True Nature Design, shares tips on preparing a rain garden for winter.

CHECK LIST



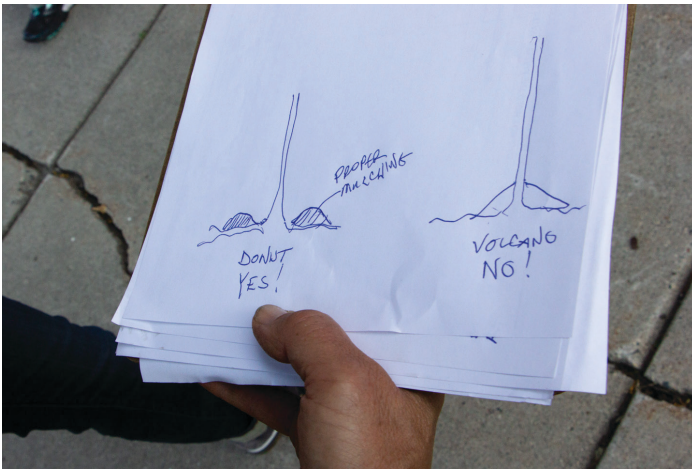
1 Clean Up!

- If your rain garden design includes a dry creek bed or another drainage depression, use a blower to remove debris.
- Weed out undesirable plants with help from the U of MN Weed Identification site.



2 Check the depth of your rain garden

- A rain garden that is too deep will hold water for too long or present a tripping hazard. If it's not deep enough, it won't absorb runoff because the water will flow right out.
- Remove any excess mulch or roof sediment that has built up around plants.



3 | Mulch if needed

- Mulching will protect your plants from a temperature differential, which is particularly important for trees and shrubs.
- Take care to mulch properly with 1-2" depth around perennials and 3-4" around trees and shrubs.
- Make a "donut" around trees and shrubs. Do not pile mulch up in a "volcano" around trunks.



4 | Divide and move overcrowded plants

- Look for common signs that it's time to divide a plant. See Resource link below.
- Dividing in excess heat or cold will stress plants. Aim for 45-65 degrees for success.
- Share extra plants with your neighbors.



5 | Save the seeds

Don't cut back native plants until spring. Their seeds are a great source of food for winter wildlife. Plus they look lovely poking out of winter snow cover.



6 | Learn more about protecting Minnesota lakes, rivers, and wetlands

- Visit <http://www.cleanwatermn.org> for more resources and stories.

Rain Garden Resources

- University of Minnesota Weed Identification Site: <https://extension.umn.edu/weed-management/weed-identification>
- Link to common signs that it's time to divide a plant: <http://www.hortmag.com/weekly-tips/propagation/signs-a-plant-needs-dividing>
- Information about determining your rain garden's optimal depth: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stormwater/documents/rgmanual.pdf>
- Go to <http://www.blue-thumb.org/raingardens/> for many more resources on planting for clean water.