



# NATIVE GARDEN MAINTENANCE

# Watering

Plants and shrubs need regular watering until established.

Trees may need weekly watering for years.

Consider a rain garden.







# Mulch

Use weed-free material to mulch.

Mulch can reduce water loss, suppress weeds and protect plants from temperature extremes.

Natural mulches can decompose and feed the soil.







# Weeding

- Cut rather than dig to avoid disturbing native plant roots.
- Avoid exposing buried weed seeds to light/germination.

Note: these types of tools can be extremely sharp; use caution.







# Do Not Deadhead

Leave seedheads in place.

If you look closely, you will see birds enjoying the seeds.







# Leave the Leaves

- Important for a healthy garden and blanket for early spring flowers.
- Overwintering insects.
- Caterpillars and cocoons.
- Seeds for birds.
- Leave until temperatures reach 50 degrees or higher for five consecutive days in the spring.









# Cut Plants to 15 Inches

- When temperatures rise consistently above 50 degrees, cut the previous year's stems to 15 inches.
- Chop and drop; cut up the removed stems and leave them to decompose.







# Controlled Burn Vs. Mowing

- Goal of both is to expose native plant seeds to sunlight/germination.
- If controlled burn is not allowed in your area, simulate by mowing native bed by 1/3 every year.
- Full garden can be mowed high (over 6") if plants are short, usually first-year garden.
- Remove diseased plants as soon as noticed.









# Beautiful Gardens

As native plantings mature,  
they will out-compete weeds.





