

Rain Garden Maintenance

TABLE 3. BIORETENTION MAINTENANCE TASKS.

Task	Frequency	Maintenance Notes
Pruning	1 – 2 times / year	Nutrients in runoff often cause bioretention vegetation to flourish.
Mowing	2 – 12 times / year	Frequency depends upon location and desired aesthetic appeal.
Mulching	1 – 2 times / year	
Mulch removal	1 time / 2 – 3 years	Mulch accumulation reduces available water storage volume. Removal of mulch also increases surface infiltration rate of fill soil.
Watering	1 time / 2 – 3 days for first 1 – 2 months. Sporadically after establishment	If droughty, watering after the initial year may be required.
Fertilization	1 time initially	One time spot fertilization for “first year” vegetation.
Remove and replace dead plants	1 time / year	Within the first year, 10 percent of plants may die. Survival rates increase with time.
Miscellaneous upkeep	12 times / year	Tasks include trash collection, spot weeding, and removing mulch from overflow device.