



Stormwater Rebate Do's & Don'ts for Garden Projects

DO

USE LEAF LITTER COMPOST It conditions soil, improving the growing environment for your plants in raingardens, native gardens, and very sandy or compacted soils.

USE SHREDDED HARDWOOD MULCH 3"-4" of shredded hardwood mulch suppresses weed growth and doesn't float as much as woodchips in raingardens.

USE QUALITY EDGING It is easier to work with, easier to maintain, and lasts longer. Stay away from edging that comes in a roll. Ask for contractor grade.

USE GOOD EROSION PROTECTION For buffers or gardens on steep slopes to prevent them from washing away on a stormy day. Examples include erosion control blankets, wave breaks, and coconut fiber logs.

SAVE ALL RECEIPTS The City's program is a reimbursement program; we are required to verify expenses.

USE ONLY NATIVE PLANTS in native gardens or buffer projects. The MnDNR and SWCD maintain lists of native plant suppliers. When in doubt, ask the grower if the original plant source (seed, cutting, etc.) is within 200 miles (300 miles for trees and shrubs). The Master Gardener's annual plant sale does not qualify. Cultivars of native plants do not qualify.

BEWARE OF CULTIVARS Cultivars of native plants may have altered traits that reduce their ability to improve water quality and provide nectar for pollinators. They do not qualify for use in native planting and buffer projects. Avoid plants with descriptive phrases in quotes (e.g. Purple Coneflower 'Butterfly Kisses', Big Bluestem 'Red October') - these are cultivars.

USE WILDLIFE EXCLUSION MEASURES Fencing, repellents, and other deterrents keep geese, rabbits, and deer away while your garden becomes established.

BRAG You've done all the work and now you have this gorgeous low-maintenance garden. Tell your friends, neighbors, and family how you did it. Inspire them to landscape for clean water too. Be the trendsetter.

DON'T

USE HERBICIDES Except to clear project areas before installation or spot spray or stump treat invasive weeds.

USE PRE-EMERGENT WEED PREVENTERS These are some of the pollutants we are trying to capture, so we don't want to add more. 3"-4" of hardwood mulch suppresses weed growth.

USE FERTILIZERS in projects where you are installing live plants. Fertilizers are some of the pollutants we are trying to catch, so we don't want to add more of them. Fertilizers make native plants grow tall and leggy and flop over. Fertilizers may be used for certain projects establishing native plants by seed.

PLANT CULTIVARS AND NON-NATIVES in native gardens or buffer projects. They are ok to plant in raingardens, but native plants offer more wildlife and pollinator benefits.

USE BARK, CYPRESS, ROCK, OR ACIDIC MULCHES These mulches either breakdown too quickly to suppress weed growth or create conditions that hinder plant growth (acidity, temperature, etc.)

SUBMIT VAGUE RECEIPTS Good receipts keep the City financially accountable.

ADD SOIL OR CHANGE GRADE without approval from the City. These can reduce infiltration or cause water to bypass your garden, reducing the ability of your garden to improve water quality.

USE FABRICS, PLASTIC SHEETING, OR LINERS They inhibit infiltration and reduce the ability of your garden to improve water quality. Erosion control blanket is not considered to be a fabric.

BE AFRAID TO ASK QUESTIONS City staff can review any project before it's installed and are available for site visits. Contact Public Works at (651) 322-2022 or pwadm@ci.rosemount.mn.us. The City also recommends participating in the Landscaping for Clean Water program offered by the SWCD DakotaSWCD.org.