



COST SHARE DO'S & DON'TS



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.

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 shoreline projects. Lists of native plant nurseries are provided on www.BlueThumb.org, the MnDNR website, and from lists kept by the SWCD. 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 garden and shoreline projects. Avoid plants with descriptive phrases in quotes (e.g. Purple Coneflower 'Butterfly Kisses', Big Bluestem 'Red October') - these are cultivars.

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 plant 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 should suppress weed growth.

USE FERTILIZERS 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.

PLANT CULTIVARS AND NON-NATIVES in native gardens or shoreline 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 supply adequate weed suppression or create conditions that can 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 These inhibit infiltration and reduce the ability of your garden to improve water quality.

EXPECT TO GET REIMBURSED FOR NON-APPROVED MATERIALS The wrong material can cause your project to fail. We want your project to be a success.