

For the Lakes' Sake

a how-to guide on project

MAINTENANCE



WATERING

WEEDING & REMOVAL

NO MOW LAWN & MULCH

Native or Weed?

Getting to know your project and it's potential will lead to improved performance and greater success

Plant identification can be tricky to say the least. We recommend the resources below to help with plant identification. For assistance with plant identification and/or weed concerns, contact a WCD technician to schedule an appointment.

Although our goal is timely assistance, due to our project installations being time sensitive, WCD technicians may be unavailable for assistance with plant and weed identification during the month of June.

Washington
Conservation District

Reach us at
(651) 330-8220

To schedule your
appointment



Resources: PLANT IDENTIFICATION

👉 BOOKS - THE CLASSIC GUIDE TO INTELLIGENT INFORMATION:

- ✓ **Landscaping with Native Plants of Minnesota**, 2nd Edition by Lunn M Steiner (2005).
- ✓ **Wildflowers of Minnesota Field Guide** by Stan Tekiela (1999).
- ✓ **Weeds of the Midwestern United States and Central Canada** by Charles Bryson (2010)

👉 CLICK ON THESE - EXPANSIVE ONLINE GUIDES:

- ✓ **Minnesota Wildflowers**
www.minnesotawildflowers.info
- ✓ **Morning Sky Greenery**
www.morningskygreenery.com
- ✓ **Prairie Moon**
www.prairiemoon.com
- ✓ **MN DNR**
webapps8.dnr.state.mn.us/restoreyourshore/search

👉 MAKE USE OF THAT MOBILE DEVICE - DOWNLOAD THESE APPS:



PlantNet Plant Identification - Identify plants by photographing them with your smartphone.



Minnesota Wildflower Search - Identify plants quickly by information such as its location, flower color and time of year.



Minnesota Wildflowers Identify plants by describing layman friendly traits and characteristics.

WATERING

Take your project from drab... to Fab!

Even though native plants generally do not need much water once they are established, new plantings do need to be watered quite often. Knowing the soil type(s) of your project is critical, sandy soils will need more water than clay based soils. Portions of your restoration receiving direct sun may need more water than shady areas.



Project pictured above did not receive adequate water during Year #1.

What to consider:



Project pictured above did receive adequate water during Year #1.

SPRINKLERS: Set on a light mist. Make sure the entire restoration area is being covered.

DAILY RAIN EVENTS: Skip daily watering if rain events are providing enough water. Weekly rain events play a big role for your restoration.

DROUGHT & HOT PERIODS: When daily temperatures reach 85° or when rain events are less than 1 inch a week, water twice a day.

Year #1: TO ESTABLISH

	WHEN (8 AM <u>AND</u> 8 PM)	TIME (MINUTES)	GOAL (KEEP IT UP)
NATIVE SEEDING	✓	20-30	REACHES 12 INCHES
PLUGS	✓	20-30	4-6 WEEKS
NO-MOW SEEDING	EVERY OTHER MORNING	15-30	4-6 WEEKS

AFTER ESTABLISHED

	WHEN (8 AM <u>ONLY</u>)	TIME (MINUTES)	GOAL (KEEP IT UP)
NATIVE SEEDING	✓	20	THROUGH OCTOBER
PLUGS	✓	20	THROUGH OCTOBER
NO-MOW SEEDING		30	WATER DURING DRY PERIODS

Year #2-3: YOU DID IT! 👍

WATER AS NEEDED DURING PERIODS OF DROUGHT

WATERING

WEEDING & REMOVAL

Take your project from drab... to Fab!

Weeding the restoration area the first year is critical. This allows for a greater chance for native species to get a jump-start during the first year's growth. Less competition with the native species helps to establish a strong root structure that will allow them to gather more nutrients and moisture needed for the first season's establishment.



The project pictured above did not receive adequate weeding.

What to consider:



The project pictured above did receive adequate weeding.

COMPETITION: Failing to stay on top of weeding will cause competition for the native species, prolonging their establishment.

EXTENDED MAINTENANCE: Lack of weeding your restoration in the first and second years will lead to an absence of desired natives and "ugly weeds" will take longer to eliminate.

HERBICIDE TREATMENT: Only if needed for aggressive or noxious weeds. Contact a Washington Conservation District Resource Technician prior to any herbicide treatment.

Year #1: TO ESTABLISH

	HOW	WHEN	GOAL (KEEP IT UP)
WEEDING	HAND PULL	EVERY 2 WEEKS	AFTER FLOWERS START TO BLOOM BUT PRIOR TO SEED HEAD FORMATION
DEAD FOLIAGE	LEAVE STANDING	EVERY FALL	REMOVE IN THE SPRING
TREE LEAVES	RAKE OR BLOW	SPRING OR FALL	REMOVE WHEN LEAVES COVER THE GROUND

Year #2: YOU GOT THIS!

	HOW	WHEN	GOAL (KEEP IT UP)
WEEDING	HAND PULL	EVERY 3 WEEKS	AFTER FLOWERS START TO BLOOM BUT PRIOR TO SEED HEAD FORMATION
DEAD FOLIAGE	LEAVE STANDING	EVERY FALL	REMOVE IN THE SPRING
TREE LEAVES	RAKE OR BLOW	SPRING OR FALL	REMOVE WHEN LEAVES COVER THE GROUND

Year #3-10: YOU DID IT!

	HOW	WHEN	GOAL (KEEP IT UP)
WEEDING	HAND PULL	ONCE A MONTH	ELIMINATE NOXIOUS &/ OR PROBLEMATIC WEEDS
DEAD FOLIAGE	LEAVE STANDING	EVERY FALL	REMOVE IN THE SPRING
TREE LEAVES	RAKE OR BLOW	SPRING OR FALL	REMOVE WHEN LEAVES COVER THE GROUND
PRESCRIBED BURN	CONSULT WCD	THICK ENOUGH TO CARRY A FIRE	INCREASE FLOWERING, SEED PRODUCTION & GERMINATION
ADD. PLANTING	CONTACT WCD	WINTER LOSS OR YOUR READY FOR MORE!	CONTINUOUS VEGETATION COVER

WEEDING & REMOVAL

NO MOW LAWN & MULCH

How to keep your drought tolerant, low maintenance lawn looking its best!

No Mow lawn is a blend of grasses that interlock to form a dense sod that withstands moderate foot traffic. The deep roots of the No Mow grasses (up to 9" deep) enhance drought resistance by reducing water loss and reaching deeper water reserves.



What to consider:



No Mow thrives in most soil types.

FALL IS THE BEST TIME TO DO MAINTENANCE: Soils are usually drier and not saturated with moisture – as commonly occurs in spring– making it easier to perform lawn maintenance activities.

CLOSE MOWING: Should **never** be done during the growing season, as it will scalp the lawn and severely harm the grasses.

TREE LEAVES: Leaves will smother the grass and kill it. Oak leaves are particularly problematic as they are not readily broken down.

Yearly: FALL MAINTENANCE

	HOW	WHEN
OVERSEEDING	RAKE BARE SOIL, SPRINKLE SEED, RAKE SEED IN LIGHTLY, STEP ON FIRMLY	WATER FOR THE FIRST 2 – 3 WEEKS, STIMULATES GERMINATION & GROWTH
CLOSE MOWING	SET MOWER ON LOWEST SETTING. MOWED MATERIAL SHOULD BE BAGGED OR RAKED & REMOVED	WHEN NIGHT TIME TEMPERATURES HAVE BEEN BELOW FREEZING FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME
TREE LEAVES	RAKE OR BLOW	WHEN LEAVES ACCUMULATE & MAT DOWN THE LAWN

May is for Mulching!

Mulching plants is both functional and decorative. When applied correctly mulch helps suppress weeds, retain moisture, moderate soil temperature and can prevent erosion and water runoff.

If applied too early in the spring, mulch can inhibit soil warming and delay root growth. As a general rule: wait until after the last frost in spring to apply summer mulch.



Make sure mulch doesn't touch the base of native plants.

What to consider:



BUYING MULCH: We recommend using **shredded cedar mulch**, but whatever material you buy, make sure that it has not been treated with herbicide and/or insecticide.

TOO MUCH MULCH: Too much mulch can be harmful and can cause excessive moisture. There's nothing more frustrating than paying for something and having a large pile left over.

TREES & SHRUBS: Mulch mounded around the base of a tree or shrub can cause Root-Collar Rot. Pull mulch away from the base, creating a "donut-hole" around the trunk.

Yearly: SPRING MAINTENANCE

	HOW	KEEP IT UP
3" DEPTH GOAL	USE YOUR HANDS, SQUARE SHOVEL, MULCH FORK OR A SMALL BUCKET & LIGHTLY SPREAD	FILL IN BARE SPOTS. RE-APPLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IF NEEDED
REVITALIZE	STRIP OFF AS MUCH OF THE OLD MULCH AS YOU CAN, TOP WITH 1" NEW MULCH	EVERY 3 YEARS
TREE LEAVES	RAKE OR BLOW	SPRING OR FALL

NO MOW LAWN & MULCH