

Container Garden Maintenance



Water your container garden regularly

When it comes to container garden maintenance, watering is essential! Since the roots of your plants are in a restricted area they can only access water from a limited space. If you don't irrigate consistently, the plants become stressed, which puts out the welcome mat for pests and diseases. Water often the first year – twice per week if able, or three times per week if in a drought period. Your natives will thank you but taking off next year!

Watch for pests

Over time, you may discover nibbled blossoms, skeletonized foliage, missing flower buds, or pock-marked leaves. You'll want to **check once every week or two for issues and properly identify any possible pests**. Usually, the best solution is simply picking the pests off in a container garden but occasionally more is needed. You can identify pests through the University Extension service line, through your local garden store or through the Blue Thumb partner resources!

Pruning potted plants

Some natives, like coneflowers, require a trim every now and then to remain vibrant in a pot. Simply snip the stem at the first set of leaves to send the energy back into new blooms.

To keep your container looking it's best and not overrun, prune out any dead, weak or leggy growth. This will keep your container looking tidy, encouraging new healthy growth and bushier.



Adding nutrients to container gardens

As your plants grow and mature, they use up the nutrients in the soil in your container. While own Minnesota natives don't need a lot, don't hesitate to add a bit of plant food once or twice a year. This could be worm tea or a bit of compost as the soil level decreases over time.