Maintenance Tasks for Strathray Gardens - Garden Studio

The following tasks should be carried out annually: -

1. Plant encroachment.

Any vegetation which has encroached into drainage outlets, walkways and the vegetation barriers (pebbles) should be removed. The vegetation removed may be set aside and used to repair any bare patches if required (see below). If movement/settlement of the pebble vegetation barrier has occurred, additional washed stone pebbles similar to the existing are to be added.

2. Monitor the colour and rate of growth.

The colour and rate of growth of the vegetation should be reviewed to establish the health of the plants. It should be noted that many factors can affect the growth and colour of the vegetation and that plants tend to be greener in wetter, mild conditions (springtime) and where the roof pitch is shallow.

During May, June and July, sedum plants flower and you will see a mixture of colours –predominantly whites, pinks and yellows with some purple. The foliage of some species of sedum, such as Sedum Album “Coral Carpet”, blush red naturally during the summer and autumn, and so the vegetation can take on a more ‘red/brown appearance. This becomes more noticeable once plants have flowered, leaving remnants of dry brown seed heads. The best visible indication of the health of a plant is if the leaves are fleshy and contain plenty of water.When exposed to extreme conditions, sedum plants have a tendency to turn a deep red colour. This is a natural phenomenon and is important to help the plant to acclimatize, ready to survive a cold winter or hot summer. This will usually occur during extreme cold weather as well as periods of prolonged drought, in very exposed locations or when the plants are in distress through lack of nutrient (fertiliser). If sedums are showing signs of distress, but have received regular rainfall, then the most likely problem is a lack of nutrient and a fertiliser should be applied.

3. Weeding

With the exception of saplings, which should always be removed, weeds in an extensive green roof should be considered as a problem only of aesthetics. If considered excessive, they can be removed either manually or by using a ‘spot weed wipe’, ensuring that care is taken to follow specific instructions regarding the use of any proprietary products. After the removal of weeds and saplings, treat the affected area as if it were a bare patch (see below). All extensive green roof installations will at times include some moss and grass.

4 Repairing Bare Patches.

Bare patches can be easily repaired and this is best done during the main growing seasons of March/April or from late August until the end of September. Take vegetation cuttings from surrounding areas of abundant growth and place on bare patches, pressing gently into the soil. A light sprinkling of sand mixed with compost should then be dressed over the affected area to improve the uptake of the cuttings. The best results will be achieved if this work is carried out during spring maintenance and the affected area is kept moist for a short period afterwards. Please contact Bauder for further project-specific advice.

5 Fertiliser for Bauder XF301 sedum blankets

Bauder Sedum Blankets are grown in a shallow growing medium which contains very little nutrient, so the annual application of fertiliser is crucial to ensure that the plants remain healthy.

Fertiliser should ideally be applied during March/April, as it helps the plants to prepare for extreme weather conditions and flowering whilst also allowing the different species to gain sufficient nutrients without competing against each other.