Use collected rainwater, instead of chemically treated water, on land-scapes.

- Performs better
- Is free
- Easy to use
- Good for your plants
- *It's the right thing to do!*

Why Collect Rainwater?

- It's better for your plants
- You can have rain whenever you want it
- Saves $$$ on your water bill
- You reduce demand on municipal water supply
- You make efficient use of a valuable natural resource

Why Is Rainwater Better for your plants?

- Treated municipal water can cause buildup of salts that slow down plant growth and development
- As rainwater percolates into the soil, it forces salts that slow down growth and development
- Roots grow better
- Plants become more drought tolerant

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

10056 Marsh Lane, Ste B-101
Dallas, TX 75229-0071
http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/

TEXAS MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE
Texas A&M System
DALLAS COUNTY

Horticulture • Education • Community

To ask a gardening question,
request a speaker,
or find out how to become a
Certified Master Gardener

CALL THE MG HELP DESK

214.904.3053

Monday-Friday: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm
Email: dallasmg@ag.tamu.edu

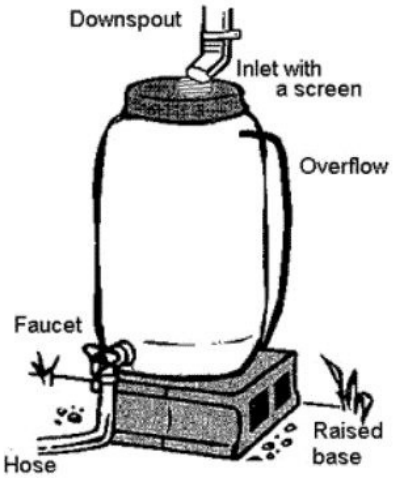
Dallas County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers supporting Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Dallas County Horticulture programming.
www.dallascountymastergardeners.org

Document originally created by Janet D. Smith
Certified Dallas County Master Gardener

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Rainwater:

Save It for a Sunny Day



Getting started with rain barrels

Dallas County Master Gardener

When Does It Rain?

Historically the Dallas area gets more rain in April and May than any other months. Get your barrel in place by then to use the water in the hot and dry summer months.

How Much Can I Collect?

1” of rain on a 2400 sq ft roof will produce 1440 gallons of water if all the water is collected.

Calculate: roof area in square feet x amount of rain x .6 which is gallons per sq ft = number of gallons

2400 * 1 * .6 = 1440 gallons

The average lawn is 2000 sq ft and needs 1200 gallons to water 1”.

Using Collected Rainwater

One 30-50 gallon barrel will NOT water your whole yard but you can use it for

- Container plants in- or out-doors
- Tomatoes
- Herbs
- Wildlife drip or mister
- A small bed
- Watering your foundation

Rain barrels are made to catch and release, so use them the next time you need to water

Rainwater is NOT to be used for drinking

Buying a Rain Barrel

- Must not allow light into the barrel
- Must filter debris from barrel
- Must not allow mosquitoes to enter

Find them at Sam’s, Elliott’s Hardware, full service nurseries or online at www.therainwell.com

Making a Rain Barrel

- Use a 50-gallon drum
- You can use a plastic trash can but be aware it will probably only last for one season
- Use paint for plastic if it allows light in through the walls
- Drill a small hole near the bottom for the spigot
- Drill a larger hole in the top for the water to enter and cover it with mosquito screen

Get instructions on www.diy.com

Installing a Rain Barrel

- Use a gutter downspout that is near where you want to use the water
- Make sure rain comes down that spout
- Clean out the gutters
- Make sure the downspout is clear of debris
- If no gutters, place under a valley in the roof
- Level the ground surface enough to put a watering can under the spigot.
- Place three cinder blocks under the barrel if using soaker hoses or drip irrigation and run a short hose from the barrel to the start of the soaker or drip system

Want More Rainwater?

- Rain at 1 inch per hour yields 10.4 gallons per minute per 1000 ft of roof area, so a 50-gallon barrel would fill in less than 5 minutes
- Use hoses to link multiple barrels together
- Put the hose at the top to fill the first one completely before rainwater goes into the additional barrels
- Put the hose at the bottom to fill all at the same time
- Put cinder blocks three high and connect additional barrels at the bottom to create more water pressure to push through the hose to get the water down 20 feet or more
- Put barrels at other downspouts
- Get larger barrels or cisterns
- **Before installing a large-scale rainwater harvesting system, please research it thoroughly and check with your city about local ordinances.**

Size matters: bigger is better when it comes to rain barrels!