

# Harvest the Rain

For Water Conservation



**Collecting rainwater for your garden is a smart idea, no matter what your motivation. Plants like rainwater, because it's naturally soft, and free of chlorine and other chemicals. If drought is a problem where you live, collecting rainwater is a good way to deal with watering restrictions. If you're on a city water system, you stand to save a considerable amount of money.**

**When you look at the numbers, it's surprising how much water you can collect every time it rains. Just a half inch of rain falling on a 1,000-square-foot roof will yield 300 gallons of water! To get a quick idea how much water the roof of your own house might yield, here's an example. For a modest-sized house, say 30 x 36 ft., with a typical 2 ft. roof overhang, a half inch of rain would yield about 408 gallons of water. That's enough to fill six standard-size rain barrels**

**The rain barrel attaches to your gutter's downspout enabling you to catch your roof's rain water and store it for later. Then you can water your plants and gardens with your recycled water as needed. Rain barrels are great for the environment because they reduce water run-off. When it rains, in many cases, our roof water travels down our gutters and runs off of our lawns too fast , before it's able to be absorbed. This problem get worse with urban sprawl. By capturing rain water and releasing it slowly, when the weather is dry, water is used and returned to the environment at the rate nature intended.**

**The East Piedmont Resource Conservation and Development Council along with The Richland Conservation District located at 2020 Hampton Street, Room 3063A in Columbia are selling a Rain Barrel system for \$90.00. To purchase a Rain Barrel please contact Charlie Fisher at 803-576-2080 or email: [fisherc@rcgov.us](mailto:fisherc@rcgov.us)**