

SUSTAINABLE WATERING TECHNIQUES

1,000 LITERS OF WATER ARE WASTED BY SPRINKLERS IN THE AVERAGE GARDEN PER HOUR.

The easiest rain collection system to install is a rain barrel. Rain barrels capture water runoff from roofs and store this water on-demand for your garden, yard, and container plants. This can help decrease demand on town and city water supplies during the dry summer months, and help reduce the burden on municipal systems during storms. Rainwater is free of chlorine, lime, and calcium and tends to have less sediment and dissolved salts than your city's water.

RAIN BARREL PLACEMENT: Put your barrel uphill from the area you would like to irrigate to increase flow volume. Always have your rain barrels covered – otherwise, water could evaporate.

WATER WISE TECHNIQUES:

REDUCE IRRIGATED ACREAGE: How? Concentrate crops and garden plantings, grow plants that need less water, manage your soil using compost and mulch to capture and hold precipitation, and control weeds that compete for water. See how our small raised beds are planted tightly with different plants right next to each other? (With room for airflow, of course).

USE DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS: Pick your plants wisely. Try to choose plants that need less supplemental watering. Drought tolerant plants such as Bearberry, Sedum, Echinacea, Bayberry, Grasses, Liatris, and herbs like sage and thyme are thriving in our “Gardening for Wildlife” garden bed without any supplemental water.

DRIP IRRIGATION & SOAKER HOSES: Drip irrigation and soaker hoses are slow, low pressure watering systems using plastic tubing placed directly at the plants' root zones. This type of watering reduces risk of runoff and evaporation. (Attach to your rain barrels!)

MULCH & COMPOST: Use mulch and compost in your garden to keep moisture in. Compost increases water retention while mulch protects it from evaporation.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU BE WATER WISE:

Rain Barrel information: www.gardeners.com/Rain-Barrel-How-To/5497,default.pg.html

TO SEE SUSTAINABLE WATERING TECHNIQUES IN ACTION, COME VISIT OUR SUSTAINABLE BACKYARD DEMONSTRATION GARDENS AT LONG HILL.



www.thetrustees.org

