

Rain barrels help to conserve our precious water

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Last Update: 5/16 8:10 pm

WEST PALM BEACH, FL -- With the rainy season upon us, water restrictions are still in place. So how do you keep your yard and garden green?

Deborah Levulis the County Extension Agent says, "Rain barrels are a hot thing right now to have in your yard to collect rain water so it doesn't go to waste."

Rain water has many uses, from washing your car, to bathing the pets, and watering the lawn....

"You could use it for all subsequent plants in your garden, water your vegetables, shrubs and trees and thereby saving a lot of money that would have to be put out to pay the water bill."

In some cases, its better than tap water.

"The garden loves this type of water....There's no chlorine in it...Plants don't like chlorine."

And they are very simple and cheap to make, saving the green outside your house, and inside your pocket.

"Its got a spigot that's attached to it. They drilled holes in it to put the spigot in. The spigots separate. Of course on the top there's the screen and this area has been cut out to allow the rain water to come in through here from the gutters...And that will keep the mosquitoes from laying eggs down in this barrel of water...This is the overflow valve in case the water gets too high it can overflow here. And basically the hose is attached to the faucet and that goes out to a soaker hose or you water your plants directly to the hose."

Or, if you're not that crafty, you can buy one pre-made from local companies like [Rain Life Rain Barrels of Lake Worth](#). The cost is around 50 bucks.

"This is just one more way that you can add to your arsenal about being green and saving water and conserving. If everybody did a little something, it would make a big difference."