



The Rainbee.com Water Conservation Workshops

These free workshops were developed by Rainbees.com in response to common questions and concerns about various topics related to water conservation, rain gardens, grass, water quality, pollinators, planting & pruning, and ecological issues. The one and one-half hour workshops provide overviews (with questions and answers) for gardeners and hill-country residents to better understand and implement water conservation needs.

Each of the 15 sessions lasts about 1.5 hours each and we are open to delivering them anytime during the day, mornings, afternoons, or evenings.

Aquifers. We'll discuss aquifer types, current Comal County water table levels, our two types of aquifers, common misconceptions about aquifers, rates at which groundwater moves through an aquifer, depletion and replenishment rates, and natural filtration.

Rain Harvesting. Learn how to capture rain for potable or irrigation purposes. We'll discuss understanding rainwater needs, storing rainwater, assessing a rainwater collection area, filtering leaves & debris, water filtration, monitoring the water level, and caring for your system.

Drip Irrigation. We'll show you how to install a system from the spigot out to the garden. You do not need special, dedicated water pipes. Bit by bit, fitting by fitting, we'll discuss installing the system components as you watch and learn.

Rain Barrels and Wicking Gardens. The basics and benefits of rain barrels; we'll build a rain barrel on site. We'll give the barrel away to a lucky attendee and discuss how you can build your own rain barrel with basic supplies and some simple steps. The session also includes a demonstration on building wicking containers. Two units will be built in the workshop & will be given to an attendee.

Propagating Blackberries. In this session you'll see how to quickly multiply your blackberry patch by burying the tip of a flexible cane directly into the ground or a pot, then severing it from the parent plant once it roots. The simple tip layering method takes advantage of the plant's natural tendency to root when its long, arching canes touch the ground.

Lawns & Native Grasses. Find out how much water your lawn and native plants need to thrive and how often to get water to them. We'll cover the basics of proper lawn maintenance, fertilizing, mowing, and watering a beautiful, water-efficient lawn.

Find and Fix Leaks at Home. This workshop will guide you through the process of finding common household water leaks, as well as providing tips for optimizing indoor water efficiency. You'll learn how to check your toilet for leaks, inspect common places you may find leaks, and how to find “sneaky leaks.”

Buzz of Beekeeping. If you are curious about what’s involved for those folks who keep bees, then this is a great introductory class for you. The class is designed for beginners, so no prerequisite knowledge is required. You can walk in knowing absolutely nothing about bees and walk out “bee-aware” or ready to get started with your own backyard beehive. No bee suit is needed!

Pollinators – Bees, Butterflies, & Hummingbirds. Discover the best native plants to attract butterflies and beneficial wildlife to your yard. This session is presented from an artistic and scientific point of view and is designed to appeal to all levels of pollinator gardening.

Rain Gardens, & Prairie Ponds. In this session we’ll discover design techniques used for planning, building, and maintaining a rain garden. This session will cover some background science, site investigation, design, plant and material selection, as well as installation.

Xeriscaping with Native Plants. Xeriscaping in the Texas Hill Country focusing on native plants can be challenging yet it offers a unique opportunity to cultivate a stunning landscape while markedly reducing water use. This session delves into planning, soil, plant selection, irrigation needs, mulch, and maintenance so you can experience a successful and rewarding water-conserving landscape.

Composting. Compost is a natural, dark brown, humus-rich material formed from the decomposition or breakdown of organic materials such as leaves, grass clippings, and vegetable food scraps. Procedures for composting are discussed, along with options for establishing a compost container, bin, or pile.

Trees & Bushes: Pruning; What to Know. This workshop is about trees and bushes, their differences and similarities; as well as structural nuances that require different care techniques. Our introduction to pruning strategies sets us up for applying the techniques in class in next week’s session.

Applied Planting & Pruning. This applied workshop will focus on the essentials of when and how to prune trees and shrubs. In the workshop we’ll cover—and you’ll make—proper pruning cuts, we’ll discuss different forms of pruning, and most importantly, pruning plants at the correct time.

Wildfire Home Protections. Creating a defensible space in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is a critical, proactive measure to protect homes from wildfires by creating a buffer that slows fire spread and reduces radiant heat. Learn this process for managing vegetation and materials adjacent to your home and nearby structures.