

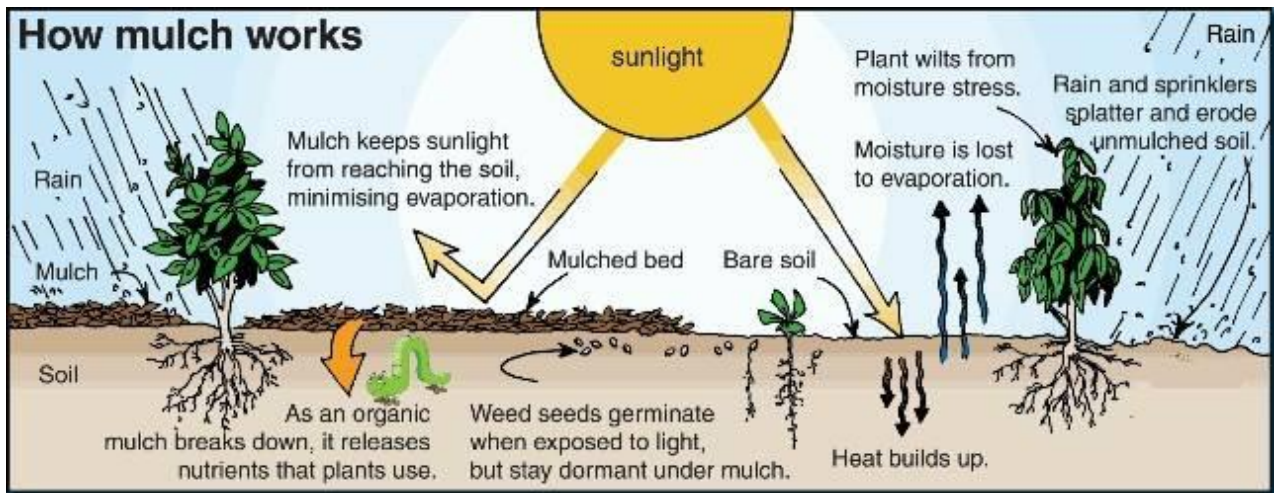


WATER CONSERVATION

HOW TO BE MORE WATER-SMART IN YOUR GARDEN

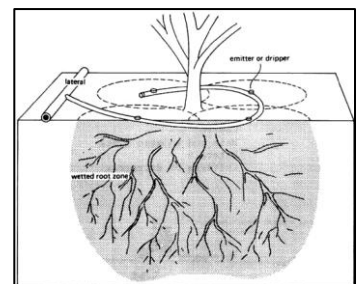


BENEFITS OF MULCH: Being water smart is important as we experience hotter weather and challenging droughts. Mulching saves water, reduces evaporation, prevents erosion, controls weeds, and in the case of organic mulches, enriches the soil. By maintaining a more even soil moisture and temperature, mulch promotes better root growth and plant health. The insulating quality of mulch helps to keep the soil cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.



HOW TO ENGINEER THE WATER EFFICIENCY IN YOUR GARDEN

- **Water Early AM or Late PM:** Watering during the heat of the day causes valuable water to evaporate instantly. Save your resources by choosing to water when the sun isn't directly overhead.
- **Use a Drip Hose:** Place a soaker hose underneath the mulch in your garden. Your plants will be nourished by a slow stream (2-3 hr; 2-3x/week depending on plant & weather).
- **Amend Your Soil:** Soil that is heavy with organic matter stays wetter longer.
- **Mulch Heavily:** Gardens that are protected from sun and wind by mulch need to be watered 50% less than un-mulched gardens.
- **Choose Native Plants:** Because native plants are adapted to local environmental conditions, they require far less water, saving both time and money. They are survivors! Tropical species are prone to fail.



Soaker-Hose Irrigation



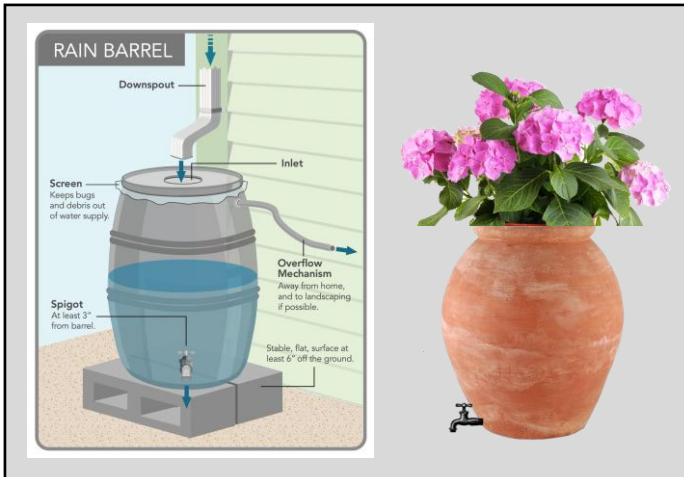
WATER CONSERVATION

CATCHING AND STORING WATER

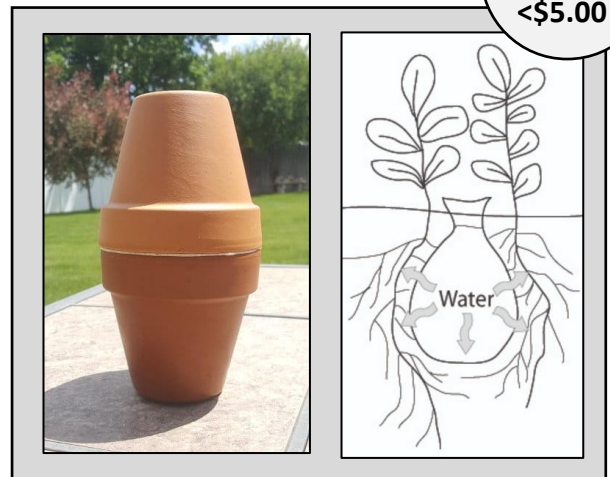


RAIN BARRELS and CLAY POT WATERING ("Ollas")

Make
one for
<\$5.00!



Rain barrels come in different shapes, sizes, and can even be disguised!



Clay pots filled with water (OY-A) slowly seep moisture into the surrounding soil

BENEFITS OF USING RAINWATER FOR YOUR PLANTS

- **Supplies Nitrogen for Greener Plants:** Rainwater contains small amounts of dissolved nitrogen in the form of nitrates which plants can absorb directly.
- **Unlocks Nutrients in the Soil:** The lower acidity of rainwater unlocks vital nutrients in the soil for plants to use.
- **Fewer Chemicals:** Rainwater is free of added chemicals such as chlorine or contaminants from agricultural runoff.
- **Conserves Water Usage:** Rainwater reduces the amount of tap water being used to water plants and vegetable gardens and therefore saves on your well or municipal water and its treatment cost.
- **Cost:** Rainwater is a free source of water.

