

“Advanced Master Gardener - Rainwater Harvesting” Training Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services

Advanced Training Program Purpose and information:

The “Advanced Master Gardener - Rainwater Harvesting” program is designed to provide advanced training and resources whereby Master Gardeners can obtain specialization in areas that support or expand designated educational programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services.

To become a certified “Advanced Master Gardener - Rainwater Harvesting”, Master Gardeners are required to attend the “Advanced Master Gardener - Rainwater Harvesting” training and subsequently meet service requirements described below. This certification does not empower the individual with supervisory or administrative authority within her/his local county programs.

Landscape water conservation goals have created a new interest in rainwater harvesting for irrigation and other uses. This new interest provides a great opportunity to educate homeowners how to irrigate with harvested rainwater. In rural areas we can educate landowners how to use harvested rainwater to meet the water needs for livestock, wildlife, gardens, firefighting and greenhouses. In areas of natural low precipitation, rainwater harvesting can make the difference between having a vegetable garden or shade tree.

“Advanced Master Gardener - Rainwater Harvesting” training will be comprised of high-quality training including rainwater harvesting from 55-gallon rain barrels up to large home or commercial systems; how to hold a rain barrel class in your county; how to work with water utility providers, groundwater conservation districts, stormwater departments and groups in your county, and provide the support you need to teach others.

Participation requirements:

To be eligible for the “Advanced Master Gardener - Rainwater Harvesting” training, an individual must possess an up-to-date Master Gardener certification or be an employee of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Master Gardener applicants must be approved by their local County Extension Agent.

Position Description and Service Requirements:

The “Advanced Master Gardener - Rainwater Harvesting” is charged to increase awareness, provide training in Compost and facilitate implementation of rainwater harvesting practices on a home/neighborhood/community level. Training activities during the course will empower the Master Gardener to complete these service requirements.

Service requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Attending the “Advanced Master Gardener - Rainwater Harvesting” training
- Volunteer 20 hours above and beyond their county’s current volunteer obligation within one year of the advanced training
- Serving as a local “Advanced Master Gardener – Rainwater Harvesting” resource in the Extension program for a minimum of one year
- Assisting in educating Master Gardeners, interns and the public in rainwater harvesting
- Increasing client awareness of rainwater harvesting through presentations, training, and mass media efforts (i.e. radio, newspaper, social media, television, and newsletters)

- Submitting a completed “Advanced Master Gardener - Rainwater Harvesting” Volunteer Report Form as directed
- Optional: Submitting TMGA reimbursement paperwork

Advanced Training recognition and certification:

Upon completion of the “Advanced Master Gardener - Rainwater Harvesting” training and service requirements, the Master Gardener will be awarded an “Advanced Master Gardener – Rainwater Harvesting” certificate and lapel pin.

Resources Available to the Master Gardener: Rainwater Harvesting

- Advanced training in rainwater harvesting and networking with presenters
- Educational materials on rainwater harvesting
- Direct access to Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent – Horticulture and AgriLife Program Specialist