Types of RWC (RWH) Systems

- Land-based Systems
  - Small ponds, impoundments
- Roof-based Systems
  - Rainbarrels, cisterns, tanks

Types of Rainwater Use

- NON-POTABLE
  - Garden & Landscape / Irrigation
  - Toilets
- POTABLE (with treatment)
  - Shower / washing
  - Water for drinking / cooking
- Bottled Rainwater

Advantages / Benefits of Rainwater

- Excellent water quality, can be better than municipal water for plants...
- Other environmental reasons – NPS reduction
- Economic reasons – its free water!
- Water shortages (short-term and long-term)
- Great alternative source in areas with poor groundwater quality
- Water supply source for remote locations

Long-term Water Shortages

36 States expect water shortages in the next 10 years even under “normal” water conditions (GAO, 2005)

Texas - Population projected to double in the next 50 years, and 900 cities/water users in Texas have to either reduce demand through Conservation, or develop additional sources of water (TWDB, 2002)
Rainwater Harvesting

RWH is a technique that does both…….
It conserves municipal water and provides an ‘additional’ source of water (for future water supply)

The new (Rainwater) Math !!

• Did you know that a 75 gallon capacity = 300 gallons or more?
• How’s that possible???

How much water can you collect?

• Thumb Rule…. 600 gallons / 1,000 sq.ft. of roof area per inch of rainfall.

• A home with a 2000 sq.ft. roof area in the Lower Rio Grande Valley can yield up to 30,000 gallons / year.

RWH for Landscape Irrigation

If RWH is used for just 15% of residential landscape irrigation in the United States, it would save a billion gallons of water each day. (1,120,000 ac. ft./year)!
State of Texas Incentives

- Sales Tax Exemption for RWH equipment
  - Senate Bill 2 - 2001
  - www.window.state.tx.us
  - Sales Tax Update – Nov. 2002

County Incentives for RWH

- Hays county, Texas (County-level Rebates)
  - $100 rebate in application for RWH system
  - Smaller size lots permitted if RWH included
  - (larger lots required with well water systems)
  - No property tax on the RWH system
  - Link Deposit program to finance RWHS

City Incentives for RWH - Austin

- Cash rebate of up to $500.00 per customer, for installing a RWH system (based on $0.15/gallon of storage)
- Discounted rain barrels @ $45 each
- Cash Rebates of $30.00 - other rain barrels
- 50% cost share up to $100 for small pumps

RWCS - Associations

- International Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (IRCSA)
  www.ircsa.org

- American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA)
  www.arcusa.org

ARCSA

- Founded in Austin, Texas, 1994
  Membership now from over 30 States, and some foreign countries

To join ARCSA:
www.arcusa.org
In conclusion…

Use the best quality water you can find for your plants and landscape…

That’s RAINWATER!!

Thank You!