

Saving rain is easy with a barrel

By Debbie Arrington, Sacramento Bee

After a soggy October, a rainy winter – hopefully – may be on the horizon. Or maybe not.

Given that uncertainty, how do you save some of that free water for possible dry days ahead? Those extra gallons could come in handy, especially if we face another year of drought. Current forecasts seem to point toward La Niña conditions and a subpar water year.

Rain barrels and cisterns allow for on-site storage of rainwater, a boon for homeowners facing watering restrictions. Regardless of drought conditions, saving rainwater can make sense for any gardener. Plants like rainwater, which is naturally soft and chemical-free. And if you usually get your water through municipal pipes, it saves money as well as water.

After five years of drought, rain barrels and equipment are easier to find at major home improvement stores and local nurseries.

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