

Some ideas for your garden next year.

One tool that gardeners don't think about is a rain gauge. This tells you how much or how little water your garden receives when it rains. Many times you may think that we had a good rain but your rain gauge will show that we had less than a quarter of an inch. Rain gauges are available in hardware stores or garden centers in different styles and prices. Some can be attached to a fence or placed in the ground. Be sure to place it in an open area away from trees or the eaves of the house. Rain water is the best for your plants. It is free from chlorine and other harmful minerals. You can purchase a rain barrel which is made from recycled olive barrels that fits on the down spout of your house. It has a cover and a spigot for filling a sprinkling can. It is especially useful for watering newly planted seedlings and potted plants on a deck or patio. It is fun to have and besides the water is free.

If you are interested in purchasing a barrel there are advertisements in Horticulture Magazine.