

# Be Prepared for a Drought

Unless you live in a dream world, at some time you will have some period of drought. For a drought you must think ahead, after the water has dried up and the plants have shriveled to nothing, it is too late to plan. You need to have things in place to avoid drought damage. Your place can get through a drought as long as you already have a plan and resources in place to offset the lack of water.

**Water Storage:** Invest in large water storage tanks to collect and store rainwater during wet periods.

**Rain Barrels:** Install rain barrels to capture runoff from roofs and structures for irrigation.

**Monitor Water Levels:** Regularly check water levels in storage tanks and make adjustments as needed.

**Livestock Management:** Plan for adequate water sources and forage during droughts for livestock.

**Drought-Resistant Plants:** Choose drought-tolerant plant varieties for landscaping and gardens.

**Selective Planting:** Focus on cultivating essential crops and prioritize water usage for them during droughts.

**Plant Grouping:** Group plants with similar water needs together to avoid overwatering or underwatering.

Drought-Resistant Trees: Plant drought-resistant tree species for shade and windbreaks.

Reduce Lawn Area: Minimize or eliminate lawns, which typically require more water than other landscaping options.

No-Water Landscaping: Consider xeriscaping with gravel, rocks, and drought-resistant plants in low-water areas.

Rainfall Data: Monitor local rainfall data and weather forecasts to anticipate drought conditions.

Watering Schedule: Establish a strict watering schedule, preferably during cooler times of the day, to reduce evaporation.

Water Recycling: Recycle greywater (from sinks, showers, etc.) for non-potable uses like irrigation.

Drip Irrigation: Switch to drip irrigation systems that deliver water directly to plant roots, minimizing waste.

Efficient Sprinklers: Upgrade to more efficient sprinkler systems that deliver water evenly and avoid overspray.

Watering Depth: Ensure that water reaches plant roots by adjusting irrigation systems to deeper levels.

Aerate Soil: Periodically aerate the soil to improve water penetration and reduce runoff.

Mulching: Apply mulch around plants and in garden beds to retain soil moisture and reduce evaporation.

Soil Improvement: Improve soil quality with organic matter to enhance its water-holding capacity.

Compost Use: Apply compost to soil to help retain moisture and improve overall soil health.

Plant Shelter: Provide temporary shade or shelter for plants during extreme heat to prevent stress.

Leak Detection: Regularly inspect and repair leaks in plumbing systems to conserve water.

Water Treatment: Invest in water treatment systems to purify alternative water sources if needed.

Energy-Efficient Appliances: Use energy-efficient appliances to reduce water usage, especially for heating water.

Emergency Water Supply: Store an emergency supply of potable water for drinking and essential needs.