

Rainwater harvesting, turf management training set for August 31

Free hybrid program will address optimal irrigation, soil sampling

[Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#)'s [Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Program](#) will host a residential rainwater harvesting and turf management training August 31 for residents of Bell, Coryell, Lampasas and Mills counties.

The free event is being offered in collaboration with the [Lampasas River Watershed Partnership](#) and [Keep Copperas Cove Beautiful](#). It will be a hybrid event. The in-person portion of the event will be in the Copperas Cove Library, 501 South Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522. Those who prefer it can attend online via Zoom, but please register to receive training information and the link. The event will be held from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. [Online registration](#) is required. Lunch will be provided by [Keep Copperas Cove Beautiful](#) for in-person attendees.

Attendees who RSVP to the event will receive updates, instructions to join the online version of the meeting and materials related to the meeting via email. They can RSVP online or by contacting John Smith, AgriLife Extension program specialist, Bryan-College Station, at johnwsmith@tamu.edu or 979-204-0573.

“The Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Program aims to improve and protect surface water quality by enhancing awareness and knowledge of best management practices for residential landscapes,” Smith said.

Residential rainwater harvesting

Becky Bowling, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension urban water specialist, Dallas, said attendees will learn about the design and installation of residential rainwater harvesting systems as well as appropriate turf and landscape species based on local conditions and other practices.

“Management practices such as using irrigation delivery equipment, interpreting soil test results and understanding nutrient applications can help reduce runoff and make efficient use of applied landscape irrigation water,” Bowling said.

Diane Boellstorff, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension water resource specialist in the [Department of Soil and Crop Sciences](#), Bryan-College Station, said proper fertilizer application and efficient water irrigation can protect and improve water quality in area creeks and collecting rainwater for lawn and landscape needs reduces stormwater runoff.

Lisa Prein, the watershed coordinator for the Lampasas River Watershed will also discuss updates on [watershed protection plan](#) activities to improve and protect water quality in this watershed during the event.

Free soil testing for event participants

Participants can have their soil tested as part of the training. The soil sample bag and analysis are free to Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Program participants.

A soil sample bag with [sampling instructions](#) and the [Urban and Homeowner Soil Sample Information Form](#) are available at the at the [AgriLife Extension offices in Bell County](#), 1605 N. Main St Ste 102, Belton; [Coryell County](#), 303 Veterans Memorial Loop, Gatesville; [Lampasas County](#), 409 South Pecan Street Suite 102, Lampasas; [Mills County](#), 1011 4th Street, Goldthwaite

Bags containing residents' soil samples should be returned to the location where they were obtained prior to or by one week after the meeting. Samples will be grouped into one submission and sent to the AgriLife Extension Soil, Water and Forage Testing Lab in College Station for routine analysis, including micronutrients, pH, conductivity, nitrate-nitrogen and other parameters.

The training will include information on how to understand soil test results and nutrient recommendations so residents can interpret results once the analysis is mailed to them.

Funding for the Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Program is provided in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The project is managed by the [Texas Water Resources Institute](#), part of [Texas A&M AgriLife Research, AgriLife Extension](#) and the [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#) at Texas A&M University.

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