

5 SIMPLE WATER SAVING TIPS:

1. Water an established lawn 1 inch per week (a bit more in hot, dry weather). Trees, shrubs and perennials typically need even less water.
2. Water before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m. when temperatures are cooler and the air is calmer.
3. Adjust your sprinklers so that they're watering your plants and lawn and not the sidewalk or street.
4. Group plants with similar water needs. Different plants need different amounts of water, sun and shade to survive.
5. Make sure your hose has a shut-off nozzle. A running hose can use up to 10 gallons per minute.

Visit www.conserveh2o.org for more indoor and outdoor water conservation resources and tips.

ONLINE RESOURCES

A quick Internet search of "rain barrels" will bring up numerous informative sites and retailers. Here are a few to get you started.

Overviews:

<http://www.conserveh2o.org/rainbarrels>

<http://www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=182095>

<http://www.savingwater.org/docs/rainbarrels.pdf>

Tutorials:

<http://www.geocities.com/rainsystem/howto.html>

<http://www.nwrenovation.com/21rainbarrel.html>

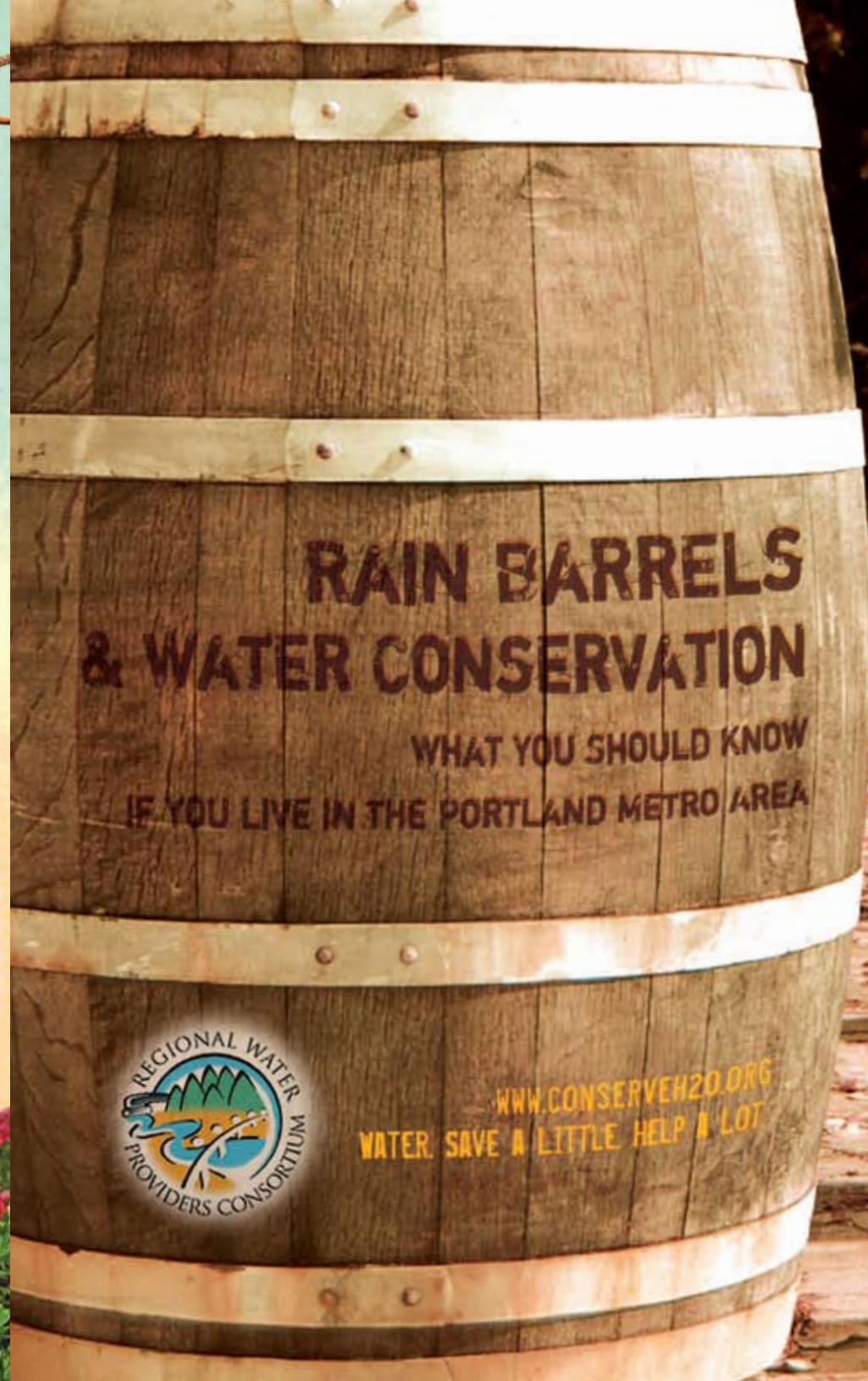
Rain Gardens:

<http://www.oregonmetro.gov/index.cfm/go/by.web/id=25102>

This information is brought to you by the Regional Water Providers Consortium. The Consortium is a group of 24 water providers and Metro, serving Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties. Collectively, we work to educate the public on water conservation and efficient water use practices for our region.

WATER. SAVE A LITTLE. HELP A LOT.

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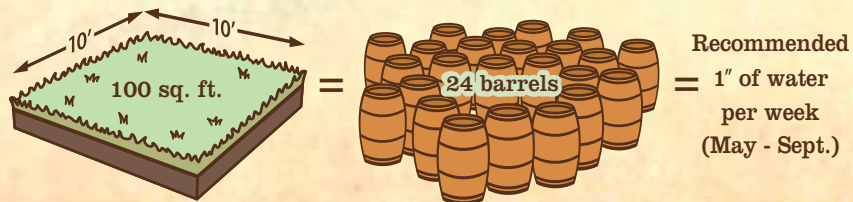
It's true that it rains a lot in the Pacific Northwest.

But, unlike other parts of the country that receive rainfall year-round, here in the Portland metro area we typically receive the least amount of rainfall during the summer months – a time of year when our outdoor water usage is at its highest.

The Portland metro area gets about 37 inches of rainfall annually. Typically we receive about 90% of that rainfall from October to May – a time of year when we don't need extra water to irrigate our gardens or lawns. Because of this seasonal rainfall pattern, and their limited storage capacity, rain barrels are not the most effective water conservation method for our region.

A typical rain barrel holds about 55 gallons of water. This may initially seem like a lot of water, but take a moment to consider your landscape's water needs. You may find that it will take far more rain barrels to water your landscape than you initially thought.

We recommend watering an established lawn about 1 inch of water each week (a bit more in hot, dry weather).



For example, if you have a 100 square foot patch of lawn* you will need about 62 gallons a week to water the recommended 1 inch. Assuming you will water this grass from May-September, you will need to collect at least 1300 gallons of water. That translates to about 24 rain barrels!

**100 square feet is only a fraction of the landscape area of most homes.*

SO, NOW WHAT?

If your original goal for installing a rain barrel or two was to conserve water, don't despair! Though they are not the most effective conservation method – they will help save some water.

We also recommend checking out some more effective water conservation alternatives such as installing sprinkler controllers and rain sensors, or using a hose with a shut-off nozzle.

You can find out about these and other water conservation resources and tips at www.conserveh2o.org.

Also, see the back side of this brochure for a list of 5 simple things you can do to start conserving more water today.

