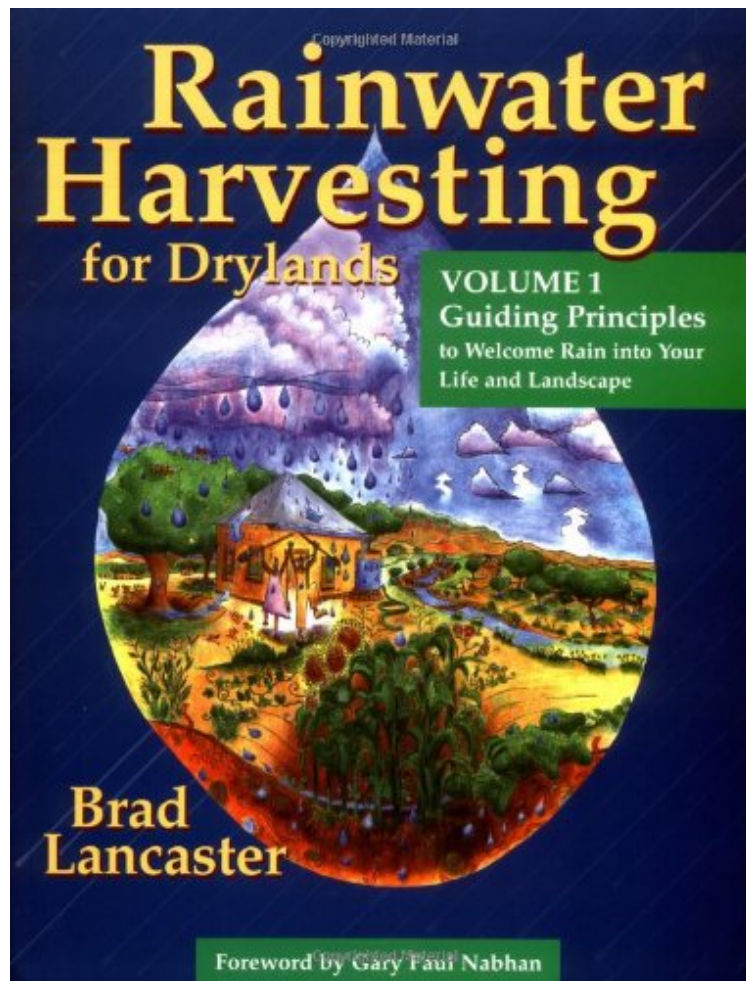


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Brad Lancaster

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Brad Lancaster : Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands (Vol. 1): Guiding Principles to Welcome Rain into Your Life And Landscape before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands (Vol. 1): Guiding Principles to Welcome Rain into Your Life And Landscape:

44 of 44 people found the following review helpful. Terrific book By Sapello Sally This is a wonderful book. The author has a friendly, conversational writing style that makes the book a pleasure to read. I was familiar with most of the concepts and we own other resources that describe them, but this book pulls them all together in a clear and comprehensive manner. Design principles presented here are inspiring and simple to follow, with enough technical information included that you aren't left wondering how you should go about implementing the author's suggestions.

Even high-rainfall areas have droughts; the concepts presented in this book will help your plantings survive and thrive with less input from you. Rainwater is much better for plants than either city water or well water (which tends to have a high mineral content). We live in an area that averages about 18" of precipitation per year and incorporating many of the strategies described in this book has meant that our plants are much less stressed during the dry seasons and require significantly less watering than they otherwise would. These principles work, and doing even a little is much better than doing nothing! 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Not all I'd hoped. I received this book from this evening, and was able to page through it in about an hour. (Not a great sign). I'm hoping Vols 2 3 will be more informative. The book does a good job of surveying various approaches to harvesting rainwater, but it left me wanting a lot more detail. There is a good section on the math of rainwater capture which I haven't read closely yet. The book fits nicely into a permaculture ethic of working in concert with natural systems, designing with stacked functions, and reducing external inputs and outputs. The writing style is clear and understandable, and it's filled with helpful diagrams. Be aware, however, that the book has a decidedly arid-climate perspective. As someone who lives in the Mediterranean climate of Northern California (wet winters and rainless summers), some of what he recommends doesn't seem applicable. For example, many of the earthworks schemes rely on setting plants in low basins to capture rainwater. But with our extremely wet winters, I think this might mean root rot for many plants -- even native ones. I was hoping for some information about adapting water-harvesting earthworks to my local climate and soils, but I was disappointed. One personal peeve: The author spends way too much time in a preachy-toned introduction to the why's and wherefores of rainwater harvesting and water conservation. Duh! Not only is this unnecessary (if you've bought this book and are actually reading it, you're likely already part of the choir), it's written in an especially irritating way. My favorite example is a little picture of a pig sucking water from the ground through a straw, which is supposed to illustrate "our" draining Mother Earth of her natural abundance. As someone who likes pigs, I take offense. (Yes, I'm being sarcastic). The tone is way too black-and-white, and it comes off as condescending. It's too bad that this otherwise helpful and sensible book starts this way. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Informative book, but author wants you to buy all 3. By Stephanie. Really informative book if you've ever wanted to collect your own water. My husband's complaints are that the author goes into paragraphs and half pages on what is in the next book, could've done most in just one book if done right, but then he wouldn't make as much money. Job security I guess. We've been researching for several years now on living off the grid out west in the dry region. Could totally go without drilling a well if done right, according to this book. Very common sense when you really stop and think about it all. Great book, going to order the next 2, but again, it's weird how book 2 and 3 are mentioned over and over again in book 1. Why not just write one book on the subject. Gives enough info that my husband is mad that he has to wait for the next volume to get the details about what the author is talking about in the first book, but he is totally captivated and loves the first volume.

Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands: Guiding Principles to Welcome Rain into Your Life and Landscape is the first volume of three-volume guide on how to conceptualize, design, and implement sustainable water-harvesting systems for your home, landscape, and community. This book enables you to assess your on-site resources, gives you a diverse array of strategies to maximize their potential, and empowers you with guiding principles to create an integrated, multi-functional water-harvesting plan specific to your site and needs. Volume 1 helps bring your site to life, reduce your cost of living, endow you with skills of self-reliance, and create living air conditioners of vegetation growing beauty, food, and wildlife habitat. Stories of people who are successfully welcoming rain into their life and landscape will invite you to do the same!

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