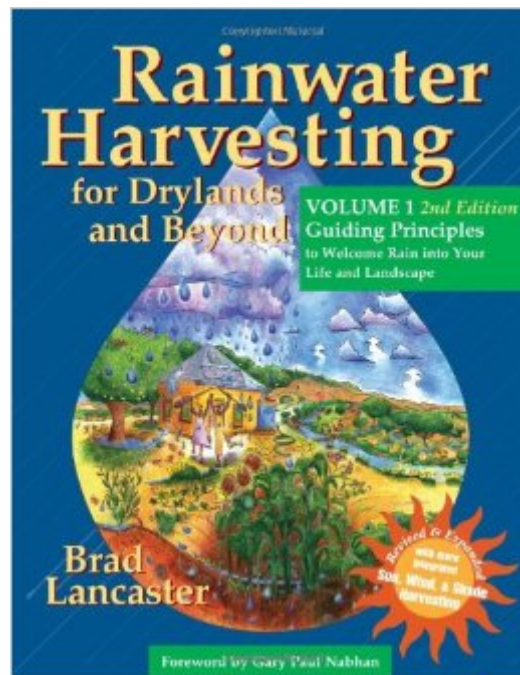


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# Rainwater Harvesting For Drylands And Beyond, Volume 1, 2nd Edition: Guiding Principles To Welcome Rain Into Your Life And Landscape



## Synopsis

The award-winning Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond, Volume 1, 2nd Edition: Guiding Principles to Welcome Rain into Your Life and Landscape, is the first book in a three-volume guide that teaches you how to conceptualize, design, and implement sustainable water-harvesting systems for your home, landscape, and community. The lessons in this volume will enable you to assess your on-site resources, give you a diverse array of strategies to maximize their potential, and empower you with guiding principles to create an integrated, multi-functional water-harvesting plan specific to your site and needs. This revised and expanded second edition increases potential for on-site harvests with more integrated tools and strategies for solar design, a primer on your water/energy/carbon connections, descriptions of water/erosion flow patterns and their water-harvesting response, and updated illustrations to show you how to do it all. 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 encourage you to do the same!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

i read volume 2 first and was wondering if i should bother reading the 1st. i am really glad i did - there was definitely overlap but he covers a lot of other topics well (wind and solar energy; passive solar and maximizing winter sun; sun direction and movement...) giving a more rounded view of conservation and more ideas for your individual home. he was very detailed yet it was not boring or

over the top technical. A great compliment to both books and the book i actually read before any of the rain harvesting books is "Gaia's Garden" by Toby Hemmenway. i feel all three of these books support each other in leading one to a more self reliant, sustainable way of life.

I've used Brad's books for several years to calculate available rainfall and size cisterns, basins, earthworks, etc. His methods of describing, explaining, and motivating have been great for harvesting rainwater, but what really makes the second edition a rockin' upgrade is the new content on sun, shade, and wind awareness - how to use all of them to heat and cool your dwelling. Like his rainwater info, Brad makes it easy for the reader to understand the path of the sun and how to put both sun and shade to work at your home. Also, the new Water-Energy-Carbon Nexus section showed me how much impact my energy use has on water, and my water use has on energy - quite surprising even for sustainability-minded folks. This is great info for folks who are remodeling their existing home for sustainability, but it is a Must-Have for anyone building a new home. Using Brad's descriptions and calculations BEFORE building a home will result in siting and design that has a dramatic reduction in energy costs and increase in comfort. Now if only I could build a new home... :)

I've been a fan of Brad Lancaster's books for several years, but I found them even more useful during the prolonged drought of 2011 which impacted us here even on the humid Gulf Coast. His strategies for harvesting rainwater (and other water resources) and storing not only in cisterns but--more importantly and efficiently--in the soil where it is needed were developed in the aridness of Tucson AZ, but can be adapted to other climates. Volume 1 of Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond is the first in his (eventual) three-volume series, and lays out the principles and main strategies for making use of the rainwater resource, as well as the many reasons for why it needs to be done. This second edition of Volume 1 adds a tremendous amount of new material to the original book, and further improves an already valuable book. Like permaculture itself, this is an imagination-rich and information-dense book, sure to be a valuable reference no matter where you live.

This book changed my life. He opens with an inspiring account of a farmer who transformed his dusty, unfruitful plot of dry land into a life-sustaining ecosystem. Then Lancaster moves into the details of planning. He provides useful calculating sheets and simply, but powerful illustrations to convey the principles of rainwater harvesting. I would recommend this book for anyone who wants

to be inspired while taking steps to implementing this type of design. I am using the images and tools in the book to convince my landlord to fund a water-wise landscape in El Paso. It works because the images are easy to understand, regardless of your background expertise and make economic sense. There is a free PDF copy of the book available, but I chose to buy the hard copy because I appreciate the obvious hardwork that Lancaster put into this book which is brimming with research, resources and Precision.

This is an extremely useful, well researched series. I live in the high desert of CA, where drought seems to be the natural state of things. It has a vast array of choices on water harvesting, so no matter what your situation, there is an option for you. You can employ these techniques whether you're building your own home on acreage, or living in the suburbs in a tract home. I wish more municipalities would employ these techniques. We grade land to maximize runoff. However, this breaks the cycle of replenishing the water resources we use. Water comes out of the ground to supply our drinking water, but it never recharges, but rather runs down the drain. This series not only teaches techniques on how to help water soak into the ground, and harvest it in cisterns, but also how to prevent standing water and mosquitoes, and how to create an outlet for overflow.

I'd give this book 6 stars if it were possible. While the focus of this book is on harvesting rainwater, it also has great information on gray water recycling, energy, and plants. The book is very well written and has many illustrations for additional clarification. If you live in an arid environment, this book is a must read.

We live in the desert. This book has been useful to my husband to take advantage of "capturing" water that flows across our property during heavy rains. Our motto about run off has become "let the water in, slow it down and spread it out." We capture some run off. Our trees appreciate it.

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