



## FYN Garden Q & A Series

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Yards & Neighborhoods



### FYN Topic: Rain Barrel Purchase

**Question:** I would like to purchase 1-2 barrels of the size used to make rain barrels? Where can I buy them? Ann P., Ft Myers

**Answer:** Rain barrels can refer to any container that captures rainwater. They are usually large containers (55 gallons or larger) placed permanently under downspouts to catch roof runoff. The stored rainwater is used to water plants year-round. Rain barrels are fitted with overflow valves and a screen or rain head placed over the downspout opening catching debris and mosquito larvae. Rain barrels also have a tap, hose bib and/or a pump to distribute the water by gravity feed or used for hand watering.

How much water can you expect to collect? Use this formula: One inch of rain water per 1,000 square feet of roof area will result in about 600 gallons of collected water. Today is your last chance in 2012 to get a basic rain barrel from Extension. These rain barrels hold 55 gallons. Site is Manatee Park. An informational meeting starts at 9 AM in the Administration Building. Cost for a rain barrel is \$45 each. A native plant sale is also in the park. Rain barrels are constructed by our Lee County Master Gardener volunteers.

### Useful Links

<http://www.floridayards.org>  
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>  
<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>  
<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>

Thomas Becker is an extension agent for the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program at the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the Horticulture Help Desk at 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or by emailing [Extgardener@leegov.com](mailto:Extgardener@leegov.com). Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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