

# Water

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Water is a very important part of gardening. Generally, there are two types of freshwater: drinking water and rainwater. Rainwater turns into drinking water during the water cycle, which has four main steps: Evaporation, Condensation, Precipitation and Collection. The earth has a limited amount of water, which keeps circulating the water cycle. When the sun heats up the water in lakes, rivers and oceans it evaporates (it turns into steam) and goes up into the air. Here, it gathers in clouds, and this is called condensation. When enough water has condensed, and the clouds cannot hold it anymore, it starts to rain and the water falls back on earth in form of Precipitation. The water ends up in the oceans, lakes and rivers or on land. On land, some of it is soaked into the soil and becomes part of the ground water used for drinking, and some of it runs back into the oceans, rivers or lakes. After this, the cycle starts all over again.

- *Instead of using expensive drinking water for your plants, you can collect rainwater for free. Collect the water in a container with a lid, save it and use it to water your plants if there is a dry period, or use it for your plants inside.*



Any container or barrel can be used, just make sure it is clean and not contaminated. Place the container under a gutter from your house and let the rain fill it up – remember to put a lid on the top or the water will evaporate.