

Rainwater harvesting and turf management training set for May 4, 2023

[Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#)'s [Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Program](#) will host a residential rainwater harvesting and turf management training on May 4, 2023 for Bell, Burnet, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Mills, and Williamson Counties.

The free event will be in-person from 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

The in-person training will be at the Texas A&M AgriLife County Office, 607 North Vandever, Suite 100, in Burnet. Online registration is required.

Attendees who RSVP to the event will receive updates and materials related to the training via email. They can RSVP [online](#) or contact John Smith, AgriLife Extension program specialist, College Station, at john.smith@ag.tamu.edu or 979-204-0573 with any questions.

The training is offered in collaboration with the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership.

“The Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Program aims to improve and protect surface water quality by enhancing awareness and knowledge of best management practices for residential landscapes,” Smith said.

[On the agenda](#)

Becky Bowling, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension urban water specialist, Dallas, said attendees will learn about the design and installation of residential rainwater harvesting systems as well as appropriate turf and landscape species based on local conditions and other practices.

“Management practices such as using irrigation delivery equipment, interpreting soil test results and understanding nutrient applications can help reduce runoff and make efficient use of applied landscape irrigation water,” Bowling said.

Dean Minchillo, AgriLife Extension program specialist in Dallas, said “Proper fertilizer application and efficient water irrigation can protect and improve water quality in area creeks, and collecting rainwater for lawn and landscape needs reduces stormwater runoff.”

Lisa Prein, watershed coordinator for the Lampasas River Watershed, will also discuss updates on [Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan](#) activities to improve and protect water quality in this watershed during the event.

[Soil testing](#)

Participants can have their soil tested as part of the training. The soil sample bag and analysis are free to Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Program participants.

Residents can pick up a soil sample bag with sampling [instructions](#) and the [Urban and Homeowner Soil Sample Information Form](#) at the AgriLife Extension offices in [Burnet County](#) 607 North Vandever, Ste 100, in Burnet, or in [Bell County](#) at 1605 N. Main St. Ste. 102, in Belton, or in [Coryell County](#) at 303 Veterans Memorial Loop, in Gatesville. or in [Hamilton County](#) at 101 E. Henry, in Hamilton, or in [Lampasas County](#) at 409 South Pecan St., Ste 102, in Lampasas, or in [Mills County](#) at 1011 4th St., in Goldthwaite, or in [Williamson County](#) at 100 Wilco Way Ste. AG 201, in Georgetown, Bags containing residents' soil samples should be returned to the location where they were obtained prior to or by one week after the training, soil samples may also be brought to the training where we will have soil bags to transfer the sample into. Please do not mail the soil sample to the lab.

Samples will be grouped into one submission and sent to the AgriLife Extension [Soil, Water and Forage Testing Lab](#) in College Station for routine analysis, including micronutrients, pH, conductivity, nitrate-nitrogen, and other parameters.

The training will include information on how to understand soil test results and nutrient recommendations so residents can interpret results once the analysis is mailed to them.

Funding for the Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Program is provided in part by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality through a Clean Water Act § 319(h) grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The project is managed by the [Texas Water Resources Institute](#), part of [Texas A&M AgriLife Research](#), [AgriLife Extension](#), and the [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#) at Texas A&M University.

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