

# Keeping it Green during the Drought

## Strategies for water saving and collecting from Trees Atlanta

Its springtime and newly planted trees NEED water to establish and flourish. With your help and creativity, we can overcome this serious water shortage. Here are some ways to use less and capture more:

### Capturing creatively:

- ? Place containers in your showers, bathtubs, and sinks to capture water that would otherwise be wasted. This is called grey water and is safe for trees.
- ? Capture water that drips from air conditioner units and dehumidifier units. This is perfect for flower beds and small trees.
- ? When we do get rain, install rain barrels to capture runoff from rooftops. Beware of overflowing barrels and consider how to manage excess water.
- ? Have your plumber re-route your gray water to trees and gardens rather than letting it run into the sewer line. Check with your city codes, and if it isn't allowed in your area, start a movement to get that changed.
- ? Use free mulch! Spread fall leaves around trees to better retain and store ground moisture. This keeps the soil cool, combats weeds, and conserves water. Ask your local tree removal company about receiving free wood chips.
- ? Refrain from dumping ice in sinks, place ice along tree bases.

### Using less:

- ? When watering give priority to valuable specimen trees or shrubs that would be impossible to replace. Keep in mind that annuals and turf grasses can easily be replaced which is less expensive than replacing your trees.
- ? Enhance your mulch, by placing two to three sheets of saturated newspaper underneath it. This will help the soil retain moisture and reduce watering and weeds.
- ? Xeriscape by planting drought resistant species.

Trees Atlanta is working to get the most out of every drop. At our new office/operations center our operations shed rooftop collects rain and will provide 500 gallons of storage for planting projects. You can visit the center and learn more about drought resistant trees through our demonstration plantings and educational programs coming soon. We are also searching for alternative sources of grey water for our water trucks which will be used this planting season.

### Additional drought education resources:

<http://www.conservewatergeorgia.net/index.html>

<http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/100ways/se.shtml>

<http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caepubs/pubcd/B1073.htm>

<http://www.noahsrainbarrel.com/>

<http://bracsystems.com/home.html>

For more information on droughts and water conservation please visit <http://www.treesatlanta.org/drought.html>