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RAIN BARREL PROGRAM ON HOLD

Okanagan Basin Water Board rain barrel program on hold due to costs

Cindy White - Jul 19, 2022 / 5:14 pm



Photo: RDCO

The RDCO previously sold rain barrels at the same time as composters, but the barrels were not offered this year due to rising costs.

Yards and gardens in the Central Okanagan are greener than usual this summer thanks to all the rain earlier this year, but now it's starting to dry out.

If you want to make the most of the rainfall and keep your gardens growing, a rain barrel might be on your wishlist. However, you won't be able to get one through the Okanagan Basin Water Board's WaterWise program this year.

A program offered by the OBWB in conjunction with the Regional District of Central Okanagan composter program, was suspended for 2022.

Rain barrels were sold at cost for about \$85, but during the pandemic they were being dropped off at people's homes.

"This year, the cost was so much higher. Not only for the rain barrels but for them to be delivered, and distribution," explained Corinne Jackson, communications director for the water board.

"In the past we had pick up events, whereas, because of COVID, we were doing distribution of them. We were delivering them to people's homes. With those three things, the cost--it just wasn't worth it for us."

She says they might bring them back next year.

The RDCO did continue its [composter campaign](#) this year, and they sold out quickly.

Jackson points out that gardeners can build their own rainwater collection system. Okanagan WaterWise has a popular instructional video on [YouTube](#).

Or, you can pick one up at a local hardware store or garden centre for as little as \$100.

She says it's a good way to collect water for your vegetable garden when things get hot and dry and municipal watering restrictions kick in.

Rain barrels are also an effective form of source protection. "So, trying to collect water off your roof before it runs off your property and into a storm drain with all the pollutants it carries with it," adds Jackson.

She suggests property owners looking for more ways to conserve water check out the [Make Water Work Smarter](#) tips on the Okanagan WaterWise website.