

Getting ready for winter

The rainy season is just around the corner (we hope). Now is the time to get your yard in shape. You can get ahead to ensure you're ready for rain by managing your water now.

Clean out downspouts and gutters to capture and channel water where it will support your landscape.

Check downspouts and gutters for *breaks*. Gutters should be tight against the roof line so rainwater does not leak or spill out in the wrong place.

Always ensure that stormwater flows *away* from your foundation and into drains and swales. Use french drains or downspout extenders to guide stormwater several feet from your foundation.

Capture rainwater in barrels then divert water to garden areas a several days following the storm. The water needs to be drained after each storm.

If your soils supports it, consider installing rain gardens, swales, dry wells, french drains, and permeable paving to slow, pool and infiltrate stormwater to ground water – our future water supply.

Add compost and mulch to your soil to absorb and hold more water.

And remember we are now in year round fire safe planning so prune plants that retain large amounts of dead material, ex. dead palm frond 'skirts'.