

WHAT IS A "DROUGHT" YEAR?

On a hot day summer day in Fallbrook, with thirsty looking plants and trees around, it's easy to think we're in a "drought," but that may not be the case. The deserts always appear dry and barren, but that doesn't mean they're having a drought. However, if you recall the scenes of the 1930's Dust Bowl, that was most certainly brought on by drought. What really determines a drought then?

Webster's Dictionary defines a drought as "a long period with little or no rain". However, establishing a drought is really a combination of many factors. A drought in one area may not be a drought in another area, depending upon the available water supply. Criteria such as snowfall, rainfall, run off, expected deliveries, and local supply such as ground water and surface water all affect the nature of drought. To designate a drought, in terms of water use, it's important to know the expected needs and demands for water. To assess these demands, three main factors are examined: historical water usage measurements; a rolling three-year pre-drought average; and yearly adjustments for growth, changes in supply or water conservation. Multiple factors require consideration because droughts may occur gradually, with variation from one year to the next.

To further specify a drought, the U.S. Drought Monitor (a Federal and academic partnership for climate study) uses the following Table of Intensity to measure drought:

D0	Abnormally Dry
D1	Drought - Moderate
D2	Drought - Severe
D3	Drought - Extreme
D4	Drought - Exceptional

As an example of the current 2012 drought intensities, the entire U.S. is 57.2% in the D1 to D3 category. This was only outdone in 1934, a Dust Bowl year, when 79.9 % of the country was in the same category. However parts of the Midwest are currently worse off. Even after Hurricane Isaac dropped 6" of rain in areas such as Missouri, Illinois and Indiana, the drought was not relieved, as parts of Iowa and Kansas are still in a D4 category.

While those areas of the country may seem far away, a drought affects us all. Could it happen here? Yes, it has and it will again. That is why the San Diego County Water Authority has a Drought Management Plan in place for its member agencies, based on the following Drought Watch Levels:

- I. Watch voluntary reduction up to 10%
- II. Alert mandatory reduction up to 20%
- III. Critical mandatory reduction up to 40%
- IV. Emergency mandatory reduction above 40%

The plan calls for a multi-prong response, based on each level. Member agencies, including Rainbow MWD, work together, as needed, to alter deliveries and keep the public informed. Water rationing is the last resort. Before and during drought, the agencies and officials will strive to keep the public informed about water supply and possible implementation of the plan.

This year has been below-average in precipitation. As of May 1, 2013, San Diego precipitation was at 61% of average.

Drought or no drought, we live in a dry climate, making using water wisely a way of life.

Sources: www.drought.gov, www.ncdc.noaa.gov, www.sdcwa.org, www.mwd.org, www.rainbowmwd.com, The Associated Press 9-6-2012, USA Today 9-13-2012



ANNUAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT **AVAILABLE TO RMWD CUSTOMERS** **ELECTRONICALLY**

The time to mail the RMWD customers the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is just around the corner. As a matter of convenience, we are now offering to make this available to our customers via email.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Joe Perreira at (760) 728-1178 Ext. 144 at your earliest convenience.

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**EVERYDAY TIPS
FOR SAVING WATER**

Every drop counts!

- Don't use toilet as trash can for tissues or ashes.
- While brushing teeth, turn tap off.
- Run only full loads in dishwasher or laundry.
- If washing dishes by hand, fill sink; don't let water run.
- If car-washing, use bucket and/or hose with nozzle. (professional car washes use less water and generally recycle)
- Don't wait for tap to get cold - keep bottled water in the refrigerator.
- Don't wait for tap to get hot - keep a bucket in the tub, use water for plants.
- Turn off the shower between shampooing and rinsing.
- Keep showers to 3 minutes, set a timer! (showers use less water than bathtubs)
- Use low-flow or drip irrigation, set a timer!
- Water at night or early morning. (less evaporation)
- Cover pools & Jacuzzis. (less evaporation)
- Collect rain water, use on potted plants.
- Plant drought-tolerant landscape.
- Mulch flower beds.
- Sweep, don't hose, driveways and patios.
- Check for plumbing and irrigation leaks regularly.
- Buy only water-wise appliances.

More tips, including water-saving products, visit: www.WaterBusters.com and www.WaterMiser.com

Make water saving fun for kids by searching: "Water Conservation Power Point for Kids" for free downloads

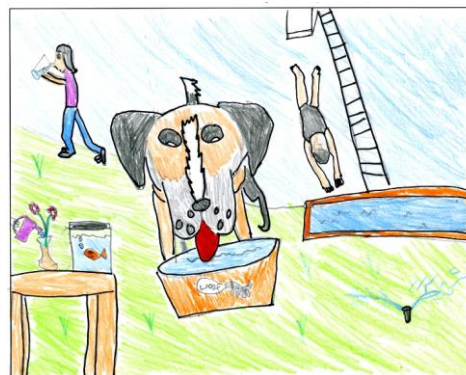
Find tips for collecting rain water by searching: "Rain Barrels" or "Rain Harvesting"



**FREE 2014 WATER IS LIFE CALENDARS FEATURE
FOURTH-GRADE ARTWORK**

Three Bonsall Elementary fourth-grade artists were recognized at the May board meeting for drawing top-notch posters for the 2013 "Water Is Life" poster contest. The contest has been in place for 10 years for the Fallbrook Public Utility District. This year, since Rainbow MWD and FPUD have begun working together, Rainbow MWD fourth-graders were invited to participate for the first time. Their artwork will be included in a 2014 calendar that features colorful artwork expressing what "Water Is Life" means to them. Fourteen posters were selected for the calendar; 12 will be printed inside the calendar and the 13th and 14th will appear on the front and inside back covers. The calendars will be available in November.

Winning posters:



Katie Teel



Jenna Jedlicki



Ashlynn Miller, 3rd place overall