

RAINWATER HARVESTING'S ROLE IN THE URBAN AGRICULTURE MOVEMENT

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ABSTRACT

With a raising awareness of how food is produced and greater appreciation for local agriculture in the United States, there has been a growth of gardens in homes, communities, and schools. In many cases, such focus on gardens and local agriculture has been considered a method of increasing communities' food security and decreasing their environmental impact. However, conventional agriculture today tends to follow a pattern of large water consumption. The rise of agriculture in cities facing challenging water issues could therefore not have the beneficial effects that the communities intend. Yet since this dynamic movement is currently gaining popularity, this is a window of opportunity for making rainwater harvesting an integral factor. This project addresses how water harvesting is applicable to urban agriculture, specifically in Tucson, Arizona. If the movement to increase local food independence is water conscious, water harvesting and conservation can secure its place in the urban lifestyle.

PALAVRA-CHAVE: rainwater harvesting, urban agriculture, community gardening, Tucson