



Principles of Rainwater Harvesting

Student Homework Assignment, Lesson 3:

Read, Review, and Remember these Principles of Rainwater Harvesting:

1. Begin with thoughtful observation
2. Start at the top; the high points
3. Start small and simple
4. Spread and infiltrate the flow of water
5. Always plan for overflow; what will happen in big storms
6. Maximize living and organic matter (e.g.mulch)
7. Stacking functions / Integrated design
8. Continually reassess and improve your system

(Adapted from Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands by Brad Lancaster)

You will be asked to list the 8 principles when you come in to class next time!

More on Stacking functions/Integrated design

Each element in the design should serve more than one function. Every function is supported by many elements. For example:

- Grasses provide habitat, clean water, increase infiltration
- Organic mulch decreases evaporation, increases infiltration, promotes fungal growth, reduces compaction