

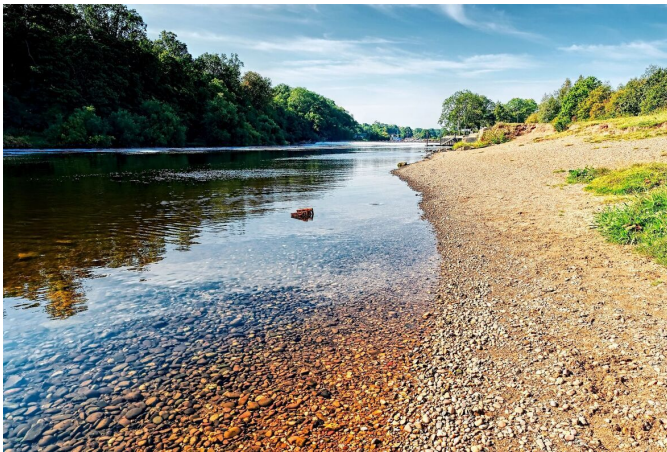


3 Visions Farm

Cocoagranola LLC

Permaculture Irrigation

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Water is a powerful force in nature. We need it not only in our bodies but in the world around us. These natural cycles power the growth of our gardens but how do we manage it without risking flooding and erosion? Through careful redirection and containment, there are a

couple ways to irrigate that can follow the natural flow of things. Gravity handles a good portion of work we can use to our advantage as you'll see below.

It takes a bit of observation if one isn't familiar with how water travels during storms in their area. Knowing where it collects can be very useful so that it could be diverted into the gardens nearby. Always make sure that your method doesn't risk flooding your basement, house or neighboring properties. There are numerous ways to do this but research landscaping laws in your area first and or call 811. You could have to hold off digging until you know where pipes or gas lines are installed. Other ordinances may be in place to protect the sewage system or nearby creek beds, rivers and so on. Just be sure to check and know

your area before you start digging.

Rain barrels are widely used to collect runoff from storms. Having had one ourselves, we can speak to their efficacy given that they can fill rather quickly after one storm. Gutters can be directed into the barrels to fill; just make sure you have proper filtration so that leaves don't get clogged in your barrel.



Mosquito dunks use safe bacteria that kill larvae to keep the water in your barrels from being infested. Another alternative is French drains; these are foot deep trenches laid with permeable fabric (geotextile), gravel and perforated pipe that can direct the flow of water and soak it into the soil. They can collect water through organic topsoil covering it or be used for barrel overflow.



A swale is similar but without the pipe; a slight trench dug on a slope that can be filled with gravel or with a mound of dirt just under it (berm) to slow flow. Berms help the water to absorb into the dirt, trapping it in the trench and percolating into the mound. So long as your dirt has organic matter in it (like mulch or

humus), it'll be hydrophilic and absorb well. Nitrous plants can be planted in the berm to further stave off erosion and trees can sit at the base. A method that pops up often is affixing water loving plants and native covers to the sides of these created waterways, working from the inside out naturally.

There's a lot to these techniques that can't be described in one newsletter so resources will be put below. Adaptation appears to be the name of the game here; utilizing careful studying of what's around you and folding in the native climate/topography at the same time. These certainly aren't the only methods out there and I look forward to learning more! It's as exciting as it is daunting but the process will be well worth it in the end.

Thank you again and stay tuned for the next update!

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- Celena Meland

Resources:

Catch More Water for Irrigation by Connecting Rain Barrels to a Rain Garden: [Click Here](#)

Water Management For Every Permaculture Farm: [Click Here](#)

How to Build a French Drain: [Click Here](#)

Rain Barrel Installation: [Click Here](#)



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