**Tip 4:** Pay attention to soil quality. Soil is easily adapted to different types of plants. Grass absorbs a lot of water and steals nutrients from your desired plants. Consider instead using mulch as a filler, organic mulch in particular will add nutrients to the soil.

**Rainwater Harvesting – How you can install a rainwater harvesting system in your home.**

Consider installing a rainwater harvesting system to further reduce your need for supplementary watering. Rainwater systems collect rainwater and channel it directly to the gardens or store the water for later use.

**Tips**

- Place a cistern on your roof or driveway to capture water which can be used to irrigate your garden.
- Slope a sidewalk or patio towards a planting area to direct rainwater to the plants.

Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) is a unique organization that brings together environmentalists from the Middle East. Our primary objective is the promotion of cooperative efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage. In so doing, we seek to advance both sustainable regional development and the creation of necessary conditions for lasting peace in our region. FoEME is a member of Friends of the Earth International, one of the largest grassroots environmental organizations in the world.

For more information and to support efforts to rehabilitate the Lower Jordan River please visit: www.foeme.org.

Friends of the Earth Middle East’s Jordan River Rehabilitation Project is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, the Global Nature Fund/ Ursula Merz Foundation and the Osprey Foundation.
Jordan River Rehabilitation Project

In 2008, EcoPeace/Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) commenced a study on the rehabilitation of the Lower Jordan River. The study identified the amount of water needed to return the flow of the Lower Jordan River to the sustainable level and the possible water saving alternatives in the national economies of the riparian countries. If implemented, the proposed water saving options will reduce the pressure on the water resources of the Lower Jordan River basin, thus aiding the rehabilitation of the river. One of the alternatives identified in the domestic sector of Jordan is using less water for home and public gardens.

How can you save water with your garden?

One of the easiest ways to reduce water consumption in your garden is to use native Jordanian plants. Some examples of lovely garden plants native to Jordan:

**Polyanthus Narcissus Ashphodel**

These types of plants are adapted to Jordan’s dry climate and are the best choice because they...
- Use less water
- Improve soil quality

**Tip**

If you want to use non-native plants, look for ones that need no more than 25-50cm of water each year. These are typically from climates similar to Jordan and can survive without excessive water.

**How can you better landscape your garden?**

How a garden is designed can greatly influence the amount of water it uses. One of the ways to plan how to plant your garden is to consider microclimates (text box on the side ‘Microclimates: different areas in a garden that have different access to water, soil, sunlight and wind.’) If you can identify different microclimates in your garden, you can grow plants that are most suitable to that microclimate and eliminate the need for extra watering.

**Tips for identifying microclimates:**

**Tip 1:** Pay attention to water access. Different areas of your garden will naturally have more access to water than others. For example, if there is a rock sidewalk, the surrounding plants will receive the water runoff from the sidewalk.

**Tip 2:** Pay attention to sunlight and shade. Areas next to trees will receive more shade, and are ideal for plants that do not need a lot of sunlight. Typically, areas of the garden with southern exposure will receive more sunlight than areas with northern exposure.

**Tip 3:** Pay attention to wind and temperature changes. Eastern exposure will provide more moderate temperatures and wind exposure. Plants with western exposure must be able to survive more drastic changes in those conditions.