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RAIN GAUGE TRAINING INFLUENCES MASTER GARDENERS' WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES

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Simplicity is the key toward New Mexico residents saving water. Small farm operators, ranchers, master gardeners, and residents (landscape owners) are more likely to learn and adopt convenient technologies that are not management intensive and which take little or no extra thought. They can receive instruction in these technologies through a Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow network (CoCoRaHS). CoCoRaHS is a community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). By using low-cost measurement tools, stressing training and education, and utilizing an interactive Web-site, volunteers are collecting valuable data for research, weather prediction and natural resource applications. Through the act of routine measurement and spatial comparison of precipitation, participants may also be gaining a better appreciation of their limited water resources.

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