

Rainwater harvesting takes off in Cape Town

By Carol Posthumus – Photos supplied by Paarman Landscapes

For waterwise citizens, rainwater harvesting tanks are viewed as a functional part of a garden.

Champions of rainwater harvesting say tanks should definitely be viewed as a necessity. In areas such as the Western Cape, with rainy winters and dry summers, rainwater tanks seem natural additions to the green spaces of a home or business.

Clayton Laue of Paarman Landscapes, based in the Western Cape, is a keen promoter of rainwater harvesting. The Award-winning landscaper, in fact, generally encourages his clients to use Greener Options such as Bokashi bins, compost heaps and rainwater harvesting. Clayton often uses indigenous plants in his designs, wherever possible and, always takes into account the water-challenged summers of the Western Cape.

Paarman Landscapes specialises in private homes, boutique hotels and corporate gardens.

Paarman Landscapes first started offering landscape irrigation 12 years ago, in addition to their landscaping services. This boosted the business, and, as Clayton says, offering irrigation “allowed us to build better watered gardens as our work flow wasn’t interrupted while waiting for the irrigation contractor to finish work.”

Benefits

Paarman Landscapes has won numerous Awards and Accolades for design and business excellence. A member of the Landscape Irrigation Association (LIA) and the South African Landscape Institute (SALI), Paarman has won several LIA, SALI and business Awards. Practising what he preaches, Clayton has an impressive rainwater harvesting system in place at his own home in Cape Town. At his home he has three 5 000 litre JoJo tanks, which he plans to expand to six tanks, which will be good holding capacity for the 1000 m³ property, which has a garden and pool.

