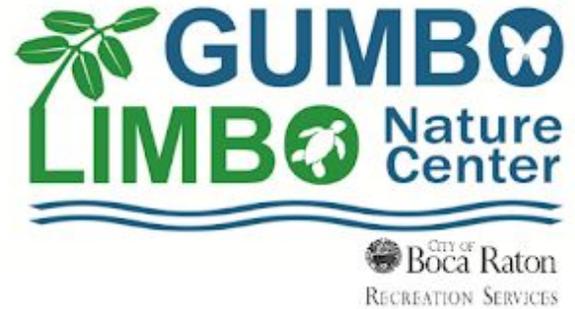


Making a Simple Rain Gauge

In Florida, the summer is the height of our **wet season**, where we experience more **precipitation** (in the form of rain) than at any other time of year. This water helps not just farmlands and grass in our front lawns, it helps natural areas as well.



All Floridian ecosystems depend upon rainfall, from the Everglades and pine scrubs, to coastal hammocks and coastal dunes. Without sufficient rainfall, the beauty of Florida's natural areas would not be so breath-taking! How do we know if an area receives enough rainfall?

For this, **meteorologists**, people who study the atmosphere for weather predictions, use a tool called a **rain gauge**. The height of the water inside the cylinder of a rain gauge is one way to estimate how much rain fell in the nearby area.

Materials:

- 1 open-container with straight sides and bottom, such as a jar or coffee cup
(Angled sides and bottoms will make the measurements less accurate. So the closer to a cylinder, the better.)
- 1 ruler
- 1-2 rain storms
- 1 area of space far away from a building

Directions:

1. Check the weather forecast and radar to see when a rainstorm will come to your test site.
2. Place your container where it will not tip over and away buildings that could block falling raindrops. **Check local lightning alerts to make sure it is still safe to go outside.**
3. Return inside before the rain begins and wait for the storm to pass by **checking alerts for safety.**
4. Once safe, collect your rain gauge and use the ruler to measure the depth of water.
5. Record your findings in the chart below.
6. Repeat for another rainfall event and compare which storm gave more rain!



	Rainfall in Inches (in.)	Rainfall in Millimeters (mm)
Rainfall Event #1: _____		
Rainfall Event #2: _____		