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Water is life! More than a slogan, this statement speaks to the importance of clean water on our planet.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, stormwater runoff is the biggest problem facing the nation's water supply. When rain hits impervious surfaces, such as pavement and roofs, the runoff picks up contaminants and sweeps them into streams and lakes, causing pollution.

Trees and other plants can offset this process by absorbing and recycling water into the atmosphere through transpiration. One large tree can capture and filter up to 36,500 gallons of water per year. On average, a mature tree can absorb 36 percent of the rainfall it comes in contact with.¹

Plants Make Life Better

Plants purify our water.

Trees and other plants also anchor the soil and filter out pollutants with their roots, so fewer contaminants reach waterways.

Water-efficient gardening – choosing plants that need less water – also helps conserve water. Native and drought-tolerant plants are a good choice because, once established, they get by on what falls from the sky.

By Elizabeth Petersen
Photo by Craig Miller/KGED

SOURCE:

¹<http://www.americanforests.org/explore-forests/forest-facts/>

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