

LEONARD PELTIER

TATE WIKUWA BOOK CLUB

Morgan LA

What is Permaculture?

Why is it preferable to monoculture the crops I grow?

Modern farming methods are referred to as "Monoculture." The land is used for one specific crop. It is reused over and over, year after year. Do this long enough and it will eventually turn the land into deserts like The Sahara and parts of the Middle East that were once lush valleys and fertile steppes!

I'm oversimplifying, but to understand how to overcome monocultural practices and possible barriers to Permaculture we also need to know how modern farming evolved. The bottom line we'll examine here is that Capitalism seeks to reduce every need to its most basic commodity. Thus the SocioEconomic rationale for the Capitalist Farmer is to exploit their position as "The Holder of xxx Commodity" and to ruthlessly amass wealth at the expense of anything in the way of profit. Capitalistic Monoculture is predicated on

developed among wealthy British Aristocrats some controversial Socioeconomic beliefs that

during the so-called European Enlightenment related to Mercantilism, Adam Smith, and the Wealth of Nations.

As a result of this thought pattern, European Colonists came to Turtle Island and found a lush paradise that appeared to their Monocultured Capitalist eyes to be unharvested "wild" lands! As such they destroyed them and replanted monoculture cash crops like tobacco and cotton



" The Earth and Mother Nature are the Greatest Manifestation of the Creator we have to relate to. To protect them and help nature recover from loss and enhance life for future generations, is the greatest form of worship we can undertake. If you can do nothing else plant a tree that bears food"

Leonard Peltier May 2022

Growing our own food not only help us not but contributes to the generations to come!

dimensional space where Monocultural practices would grow one!

In order to force the land to accept Monocultural Agriculture, you must manually add nutrients to the soil. You must also keep "pests" at bay with Petroleum Insecticide, and keep other "weeds" from your cash crop with herbicides. These products poison the soil and groundwater and much, much worse.

In many ways, Monoculture forces the plant into a complete dependency on the farmer from seed to harvest!

Without Capitalism guiding them Indigenous Agricultural practices involved "Permaculture". Permaculture relies on seven "layers" of vegetative agriculture in the same three-

A Permaculture method of Agricultural Management begins with a "Top layer" or Canopy layer that is often a Nut Producing tree. Other Canopy layer trees can be planted to produce renewable lumber within twenty years.

The Understory (Subcanopy layer) is the layer that is planted beneath the Canopy layer. These are usually smaller fruit-producing trees like Cherry, Apple, or Peach. Following these two layers, there is a shrub layer, herbaceous layer, ground cover layer, a vertical climber layer, and underneath: A Mycelial layer!

Want to know more?

For more information on Leonard Peltier please go to:

www.whoisleonardpeltier.info

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Please Call The WhiteHouse Tuesday-Thursday 11 am to 3 pm EST and ask them to #FreeLeonardPeltier and email www.whitehouse.gov/contact anytime!

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Issue #3

What is Permaculture? Continued...

Yep! There is a mushroom layer, and not the "fun" kind, or the "cooking" kind either! Has anyone seen Star Trek Discovery? The "Spore Drive"? The concept on the show is based on what science has learned about how Mycelial Networks operate in tandem with all vegetative life connected to them.

The mycelial layer grows underneath the soil in ever-enlarging circles. As it grows it draws in nutrients from the perimeter that it relays to the other six layers, with some direction from Trees that we planted first that form the Canopy Layer!. The mycelial layer also processes and redistributes waste products from each layer, and sends need nutrients and growth-related compounds to other layers!

In a Permaculture forest, the work you have done to plant and arrange is the most labor-intensive aspect! Perhaps you'll occasionally push back a few undesired plants that encroach on your newly formed food forest but you won't have to dig or till the soil! In fact, part of the issue with Monocultured farms is the continual destruction of the mycelial layer as it has to be continuously fertilized and replenished by human hands.

You won't fertilize permaculture you will plant symbiotic plants, shrubs, and trees to do that for you! Instead within about 510 years as your Permaculture forest matures you and yours will walk the trails whatever you like. No need to worry about saving for later as these are 100% perennials! They continue to replenish themselves as they work in tandem with one another to grow and prosper.

When Europeans changed Turtle Island and applied Eurasian Agricultural methods to the continents we immediately began the process of Global Climate Change that we are all now forced to recognize. Modern Climate Science has shown that Europeans in the Americas caused the Little Ice Age that brought much lower than average temperatures to European shores for many years.

This means the collective Permacultural practices of Indigenous Turtle Islanders not only fed and maintained the

Indigenous People of the two continents but on a larger scale served a role in atmospheric stability and meteorological sustainability that is no longer available, and that IS the primary driver of human accelerated Global Climate Change. 'Nother note- Because permaculture relies on plants that work with one another as opposed to "fighting Mother Nature" not a drop of petroleum products is required to plant and maintain beyond the transport vehicles that deliver the seeds to you.

One more 'Nother note: With relative "food autonomy" (A sustainable food system that reliably feeds you and yours) one more link in the chain of the Imperium can be broken. In a real sense, the ability of marginalized groups to feed themselves (ourselves) is a very real and meaningful step toward permanent personal and community autonomy!

Pretty grand, huh?

This is only intended to be a brief introduction to Permaculture, where it originated, and why it benefits not just Humans, but our Whole Mother.



Example of a permaculture garden

Frequently Asked Questions About Permaculture:

Question: What about scale? I only have a small yard.

Answer: Build to whatever scale you have available! We have not collected hard data yet, but our tentative research points at ½ acre (A square at 210' per side) sustaining 4-5 people year-round (But it can't be stressed enough this is a slightly educated guess and will vary with each individual permaculture project)

This may include some small game and possibly fish if near water, too. This can include plants grown for some commercial value as fibers, or for other non-edible uses such as hemp or bamboo. I personally will not recommend Permaculture as an outright money-making venture as Our Mother is at stake and making money will cause decisions in planting that I'm not personally comfortable with.

I will not openly criticize one who does, despite my personal stance.

Bottom line is that Permaculture can be done in as small an area as 12'x12'!

Question: Is Three Sisters Permaculture?

Answer: Three sisters sustained Indigenous folks for many centuries in North America, and yes they are a part of Permaculture! The three plants, or any such three working together form what Ecologists and Agriculturalists call a "Guild". Several guilds combined make Permaculture!

Hats off to the talented women who developed these systems. Bizarre to think in a world of #MMIW that the entire planet was actually maintained by the loving, thoughtful, resourceful, and harmonious practices of Indigenous Women Turtle Islanders.

That's worth a knee, tbh

Tell us about your permaculture knowledge! We want to work on this together! See something I missed? Let's fix it! Email the book club today!

More Examples of Permaculture Gardens



Picture Caption: To make your document look professionally produced, Word provides header, footer, cover page, and text box designs that complement each other.

Leonard Peltier Food Forest Movement

Why should you grow an edible food forest garden? To begin with, it can work well with any kind of landscape! It doesn't matter what your climate is like, what your topography is like, or what your sunlight exposure is like. Even if you have a partially shaded lawn, you can build a food forest garden!

When you build a forest garden, you can take advantage of the landscape you have, even by planting on the edge of a hill. It is a planting method that takes into consideration the beneficial relationship between plants, and their surroundings, while using minimal space.

There are three layers in an edible forest garden: groundcover, shrub, and tree. You can layer up to seven different layers of plants to have more edible plants on hand. While most people grow their forest gardens to feed themselves and their families, these gardens can also be grown to provide timber, dyes, and even cosmetics. The goal of planting a food forest is that you are planting a garden which every selected plant is chosen to complement the next. A food forest does not have to be huge, but the key is to be strategic and make sure everything provides something for something else.

A food forest garden is a place where nature and people meet halfway, between the canopy of trees and the soil underfoot. It is meant to mimic the function and structure of a natural woodland but in a more usable and edible way. These food forests have low input, can get a high yield, and help to support an ecologically friendly natural environment.

Just remember that you are not the only species of animal to use the food forest. The main role you will play is in choosing plant species and varieties to help support other animals, fungi, and bacteria.

The forest garden might produce fertility, bee forage, and beauty along with providing food and medicine. It should have diversity of location, taking advantage of the land's vegetation, light, water, slopes, and sunlight. The forest garden is more permanent than any other kind of garden, so it's important that you plan carefully.

Forest gardens should use self-seeding, perennial plants that require minimal tending. There will be no tilling, fertilizing, or weeding. In the food forest the garden takes care of itself. This garden should improve soil health, allowing worms and other creatures to live freely in the soil. It should also produce no waste, keeping all energy from fallen leaves to go back to the ground for fertilizer.

For a food forest to thrive you need a diversity of people both in terms of their backgrounds, roles, and personalities. All skills are welcome to participate in the raising of a food forest. Remember your food forest should not be isolated from the world. There does not need to be a clear boundary between your food forest and the rest of the world. Growth continues to happen on those edges both physical and metaphorical. Every forest garden offers a great learning opportunity for those involved.

Plant thickly so that groundcovers can shade the soil and suppress weeds. Use nitrogen rich plants like beans and legumes. When you first plant your garden use green mulch to control weeds and help retain water and soil nutrients. Consider planting chives, dandelion, yarrow, parsley, and rhubarb. You also can plant gooseberries, currants, raspberries, blackberries, elderberries, or blueberries. Bamboo, rose bushes, and butterfly bushes.

Plan pathways through your food forest to gather edible food and walk through the food forest for peace.

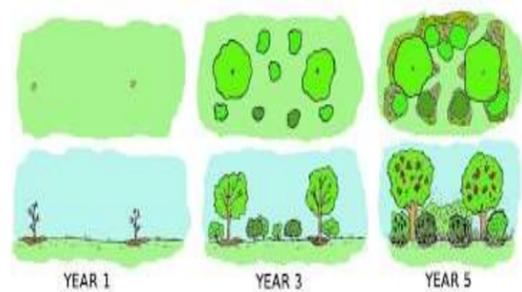
Leonard Peltier Food Forest Movement Continued...

When you grow a forest garden, you will be creating what is referred to as a "guild" of plants. The plants are chosen to complement and aid each other so that they can do all the following things:

- Draw nutrients from the soil
- Improve environmental conditions: Like providing shade or ground cover to reduce water loss.
- Fix nitrogen
- Attract pollinators and predatory insects
- Repel or distract various pest species

Given enough time, your food forest should evolve. You won't necessarily be able to harvest fruits and nuts from your food forest in the first year, but you should be able to harvest some herbs and ground covers. Given true succession, you will eventually be able to harvest long term resources like timber. Plan these features into your food forest and think long term rather than short term. You are planting a food forest not just for the present but for the future to come. Your food forest should take care of itself when it comes to watering.

All the information I have researched were from known food forest located on college campuses, community gardens, and school programs from elementary to high school participants



Dawn Lawson

How To Successfully Plant a Tree

Select a healthy tree that naturally thrives in your climate. Trees live a long time, so it is important to pick a local species that will not struggle to survive. If you are not sure which species grow locally, spend some time researching trees that are native to your area. Or ask at your local nursery.

Plant most tree species in the fall or early spring. Cool weather is the best time for planting since the trees are dormant during that time.

Planting a tree in late spring or summer, when the roots are actively growing, puts too much stress on the tree and it may not survive.

- Early fall is best for container trees and balled and burlap trees.
- Spring is best for bare root trees (trees that have been stored without any soil around their roots).
- Always plant before the first freeze (or after the last freeze).

Pick an open, flat area away from buildings, powerlines, and utilities. Make sure there is plenty of room for the tree to grow to maturity. In the United States, you can call 811 before you dig. Someone will come out to mark your underground utility lines for free (or walk you through it over the phone) so you can avoid planting too close to them.

Dig a hole as deep and twice as wide as the container the tree is in. Tip the container on its' side and roll it, gently pushing on it, to loosen the tree from its' container. Stand your tree up and pull it out of the container. If the tree is rootbound (the roots are packed against the container and growing into each other, loosen the roots gently.

Place your tree in its' new hole. It would be a good idea to plant a water stake, or even a pipe, on the outer edge of the hole so you can get water to the roots.

Nestle the root ball into the prepared hole. Any loose soil inside the hole needs to be moved to the side so the root ball is resting on solid ground. After the root ball is in position, make sure the root flare (the spot where the tree trunk meets the root ball) is just visible above the soil line.

Important note: Planting your tree too deep will cause crown rot. You do not want crown rot.

Remember to remove the small stake tied to your tree! That little stake will strangle your tree. Trees grow strong by moving with the wind. You want to loosely stake your tree, so that it can bend a bit with the wind, but not break. You can use official tree binding material, or old pantyhose.

Fill in the planting hole with the original soil and tamp lightly. Loosen and break up any dirt clods before backfilling the hole. Then, fill in the space around the root ball and press down gently.

- Avoid tamping down the soil too hard, since that compacts the soil and reduces available oxygen for the roots.
- It's important to backfill with the original soil. Using soil amendments around the root ball can cause problems, like root rot.

Deep water at least twice a week for your tree's first year.

Obviously, if it is raining you do not need to use additional water. If it is dry, let a hose drip on your young tree for several hours, so that water reaches the roots. If you have a water stake or a pipe planted, fill it with water as well as drip-watering.

Do not over-water when it is dry.

Let the soil dry out a bit, then deep water again.

If you are blocked in by concrete and cannot plant a tree, consider a container garden.

Last year we lost 40% of our hive population due to commercial pesticides. That is a loss that is unsustainable. Without bees, we lose our ecosystem. They pollinate everything.

Do you have bad soil? Sunflowers will clean the soil, pull toxins out, and feed birds.

It does not matter where you live – some type of food-bearing tree will thrive. If not fruit, pecan, fig, acorn, almond are also good options.

In an 8 x 10 prison cell you can watch a cutting of something grow in a glass and know that you are part of something larger than you.

Or, like Leonard Peltier, you can start a Food Forest Movement.

