

Living Well Community Permaculture Garden/Farm H.Harman 2015

Basic Principles:

- Use all the ecosystems (forest, open land, water, marsh, slopes) and blend Garden into the larger Conservation Area and into Living Well Community.**
- Integrate animals, gardens, ponds, forest, orchard into one system**
- Create microclimates with slope, water, rocks, animals, buildings, etc.**
- Place each element into the system for maximum benefit. For example, use gravity to greatest advantage (catch water high in the system, animals above gardens for fertility and so manure goes downhill to the garden, etc.).**
- Use all three dimensions, especially vertical. Stack and layer plants for greatest use of space and resources.**
- Conserve and recycle within the system (water, nitrogen, carbon, etc.)**
- Have the system do as much of its own work and sustain its own fertility as possible. Encourage certain plants to self seed, for example.**
- Garden is a place of beauty, a place of sustenance, and a place of spiritual renewal. Have the garden be all of these things and more.**
- Work with the natural systems and natural cycles.**
- Encourage diversity. In nature, Diversity is Stability.**
- Every element serves many functions and each function served by many elements. E.g. grow plants that you can eat many different parts of.**
- Build pest and wild animal management into system from the start.**
- Garden is a place for all ages and all levels of accessibility and ability. Especially make the garden welcoming to children and elders.**
- Grow items that meet many needs: food, fiber, medicine, craft material, tools, sweeteners, recreation, fun, creativity, beauty, etc.**
- Leave some places wild, and leave some areas around the garden wild.**
- Gardening is a community activity. Put community back into gardening/farming.**

Main Elements Needed for Plants to thrive:

- 1) Soil: mineral base. May need micro nutrients (remineralization)**
- 2) Humus: (organic matter) which holds moisture and is the basic food for soil microorganisms and earthworms, which in turn creates a rich and diverse soil food web that feeds and protects plants.**
- 3) Water, Need moisture in the soil, but also need extra water able to drain.**
- 4) Air, air circulation, and aerated soil.**
- 5) Sunlight, and for some plants, partial shade from sunlight. Sunlight is the power source of nature. It all starts with photosynthesis.**
- 6) Pollination (either wind, insect, or other)**
- 7) Correct choice of varieties that are well adapted to our climate and situation**
- 8) Some protection from pests (deer, rabbits, insects, people) and wild energies**

(wind, floods, fire, heat waves, drought, etc.)

9) Positive interactions with what is around them (e.g. singing in the garden is encouraged, walking on plants is discouraged).

10) Correct temperature and day length. Plant the right plant, the right variety, at the right time of year. (can do season extension—just need to provide more inputs and intervention).

Basic Infrastructure Needed:

A. Farm Plan/Sketch

B. Series of Ponds (can build them one at a time)

C. Animal Shelters at top of garden near road so easy to access for feeding, moving, watering, checking, etc.

D. Appropriate animal fencing.

E. Tool Shed and Processing/Storage Area

F. Network of paths or farm roads for easy access to all parts of the garden on foot, with wheelbarrow, and within general closeness with vehicle for efficiencies of harvesting, mulching, nutrient replenishing, etc.

G. Fencing around Garden (with appropriate gates for access) to keep deer and other wild animals out.

H. Raised bed gardens.

I. Fruit trees and multi-use trees around borders and at strategic places within the garden.

J. Perennial edibles at edges, or throughout garden. Plants used most often should be near easy access points.