

# The Basics of Permaculture

**Permaculture Principles:** Familiarize yourself with permaculture principles like observation, diversity, and resilience.

**Design with Zones:** Use permaculture zone planning to organize your area based on frequency of use and maintenance.

**Swales and Berms:** Create swales and berms to manage water flow and prevent erosion on sloped terrain.

**Local Materials:** Use locally sourced and reclaimed materials for construction and projects.

**Maximize Sunlight:** Position garden beds and structures to make the most of sunlight for plant growth.

**Rainwater Harvesting:** Implement rainwater harvesting systems to capture and store rain for irrigation.

**Companion Planting:** Practice companion planting to maximize garden yield and deter pests naturally.

**Guild Planting:** Create plant guilds by combining compatible plants that support each other's growth.

**Perennial Plants:** Incorporate perennial plants like fruit trees, berries, and herbs for long-term food production.

**Forest Gardens:** Develop forest gardens with layers of edible and beneficial plants, mimicking a natural forest ecosystem.

Perennial Herb Spiral: Construct herb spirals to grow a variety of herbs in a small space with different microclimates.

Polyculture Orchards: Plant fruit trees with complementary understory crops for increased yield and diversity.

Bee-Friendly Gardens: Create bee-friendly gardens with pollinator-attracting plants to support local biodiversity.

Polyculture Gardens: Plant diverse crops together to mimic natural ecosystems and enhance resilience.

Wildlife Habitats: Design wildlife-friendly areas to attract beneficial animals and enhance ecosystem health.

Seed Saving: Save and exchange seeds to maintain genetic diversity and adaptability in your crops.

Seed Banks: Start a seed bank to preserve heirloom and rare seeds for future generations.

No-Till Gardening: Adopt no-till gardening methods to improve soil health and minimize disturbance.

Chicken Tractors: Utilize chicken tractors for natural pest control and soil fertilization while raising chickens.

Hugelkultur Beds: Build hugelkultur beds using logs and organic matter to create nutrient-rich planting mounds

Natural Pest Management: Encourage beneficial insects and birds for natural pest control.

Composting: Implement efficient composting systems to recycle organic waste and enrich your soil.

Green Manure: Use cover crops as green manure to improve soil fertility and structure.

Sheet Mulching: Use sheet mulching to suppress weeds and build healthy soil in preparation for planting.

Energy Efficiency: Optimize energy use on your homestead by incorporating passive solar design and efficient appliances.

Community Building: Connect with local permaculture and sustainability communities to share knowledge and resources.