

# Permaculture in the Home Landscape

Lynda Garvin  
Agriculture Agent  
Valencia County Cooperative Extension  
[lgarvin@nmsu.edu](mailto:lgarvin@nmsu.edu)



1974 Bill Mollison and David Holmgren developed a framework for a Sustainable Agriculture System they called Permaculture



**“Permaculture** is an approach to land management and a philosophy that adopts arrangements observed in flourishing natural ecosystems.”  
Wikipedia



# Permaculture

- Mind set
- Lifestyle
- Holistic driven behaviors
- Socially responsible life choices
- Evolving

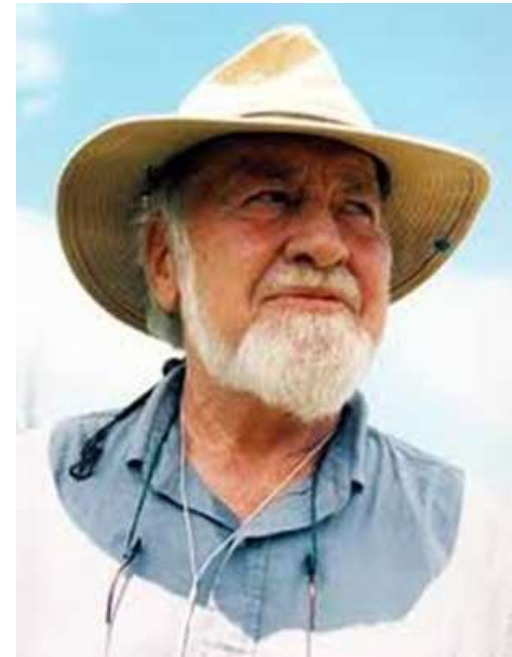


# Gardening from a permaculture view

“...the greatest change we can make is from **consumption** to **production**, even if on a small scale. If only 10% of us do this, there is enough for everyone.”

Bill Mollison

Father of the permaculture movement

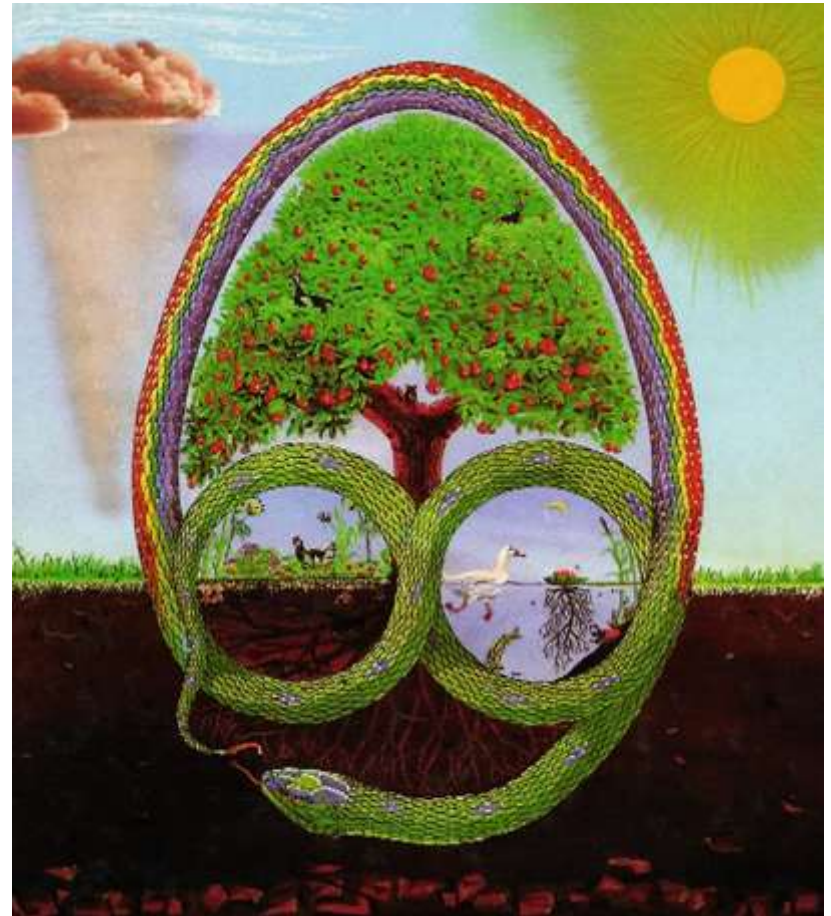




# PERMACULTURE ETHICS

- Earth Care
- People Care
- Share Surplus

Networkearth.org



# EARTH CARE

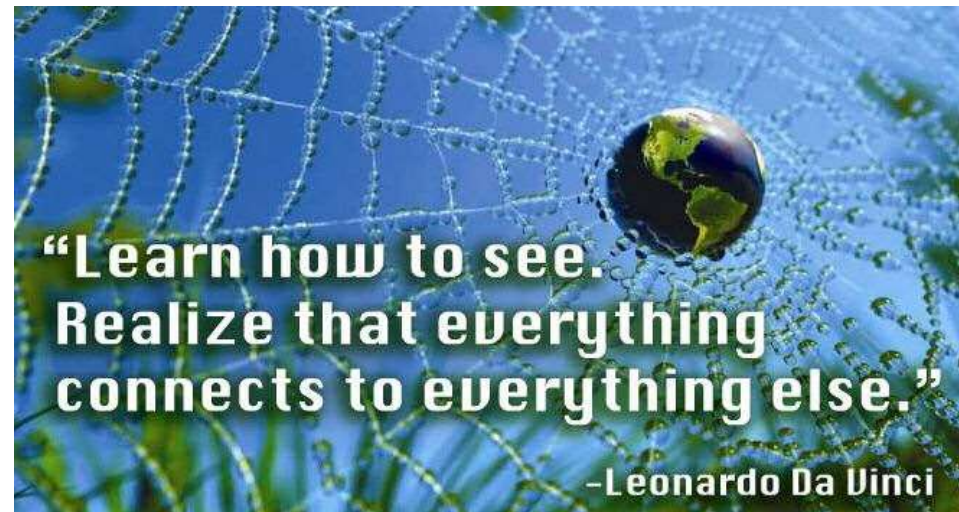
- Hippocratic Oath for the planet:  
“...I will abstain from all intentional wrong-doing and harm”
- Work with nature
- Build and protect resources
- Simplicity & diversity
- Do more with less



[Seasidecenter.org](http://Seasidecenter.org)

# PEOPLE CARE

- Everything and everyone is connected
- Meet basic needs:  
Food, water, shelter,  
education, meaningful  
livelihood, connection
- Help people become self-reliant and promote community responsibility





# Share Surplus

- Contribution of surplus:
  - Time
  - Products
  - Money
  - Energy

To achieve the aims of  
earth and people care



Leslie Davis Seed2Need Garden

# The E - experiment

Imagine you have a  
marker.

**Take poll #1**

Imagine drawing a capitol  
E on your forehead.

# Perspective Taking

As an outside observer the

a) E opens to the left:  
oriented towards your own  
perspective in complex social  
situations

b) E opens to the right: take  
into consideration others  
perspectives when making  
decisions.

a)



b)



# Basic Permaculture Principles

- Observe the landscape
- Mimic natural systems

Pattern to design

Plant groupings (guilds), Edge effect, stacking, and succession

Pattern to design

- Work with nature
- See “problems” as solutions
- Everything in the landscape has multiple purposes and supports other elements (Backup)



# Awareness is the first step to change



Seed2Need Leslie Davis

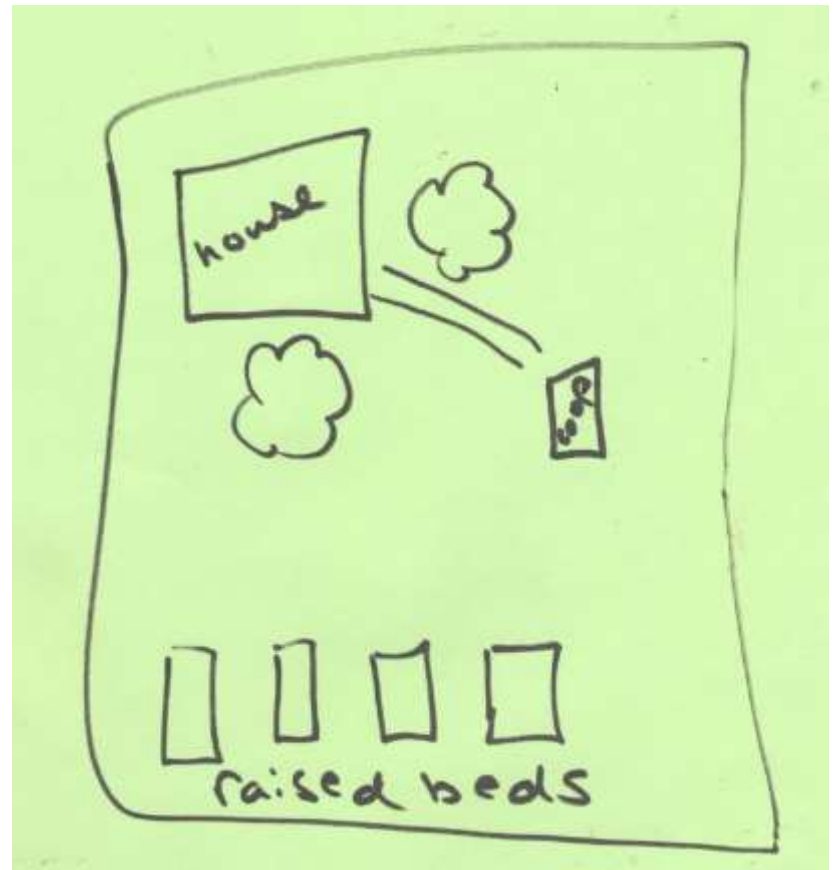


# Activity:

- Draw a simple diagram representing your living space and homescape as it is now
- On the same sheet of paper draw a stick figure representing you



**Take Poll #2**



# Where do I stand in the system/landscape/foodscape?

“Everything we do to other life forms we do to ourselves.”

Bill Mollison

Do you see yourself as nature or apart from nature?



# Perspective shift

- “We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see **land as a community to which we belong**, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

**Aldo Leopold** *A Sand County Almanac*



# Take time to observe and be in your homescape/foodscape/landscape

- Work with nature not against it.
  - What was the land and natural environment like in the past?
  - Read natural history books
  - Native vegetation and wildlife
  - Traditional foods



# Observe your surroundings

## Site Assessment

Through the seasons:

- Where do you like to hang out, walk, play
- Water
- Wind
- Sun
- Shade
- Warm and cool areas
- Wildlife
- Plant communities



[Milkwoodpermaculture.com](http://Milkwoodpermaculture.com)



# Organic gardening vs permaculture- Different by Design



Permaculturevisions.com

# Design is making connections between things

- Everything is viewed in relation to other things, not in isolation
- Look for and build relationships so they work together efficiently



Rod Geston [mudhubllc.com](http://mudhubllc.com)

# Reflect natural environment



- Diversity & density
- Patterns to design
- Plants communities (guilds) adapted to local soils and climate



# Everything provides multiple benefits

Make a resource map to see how it benefits and supports other things in the homescape



# And supports other elements

Solar Panel frame also  
plant stand

Rain Barrel alternate  
water source





# Plant groupings (guilds)

- Similar water and sun requirements
- Benefit each other
- Not much information on groupings for the desert Southwest

## COMPANION PLANTING THE OLD FASHIONED WAY WITH A 3 SISTERS GARDEN

corn, pole beans & squash

THE CORN SUPPORTS THE BEANS, THE BEANS ADD NITROGEN  
AND THE SQUASH SHADES OUT THE WEEDS

- 1) Plant the corn after danger of frost has passed.
- 2) Plant the pole beans when the corn is 5 inches high.
- 3) Plant squash seeds one week later.

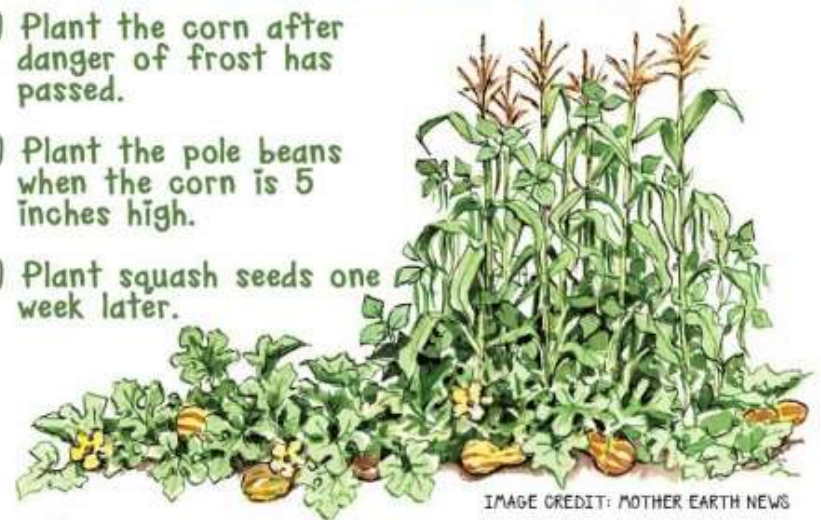


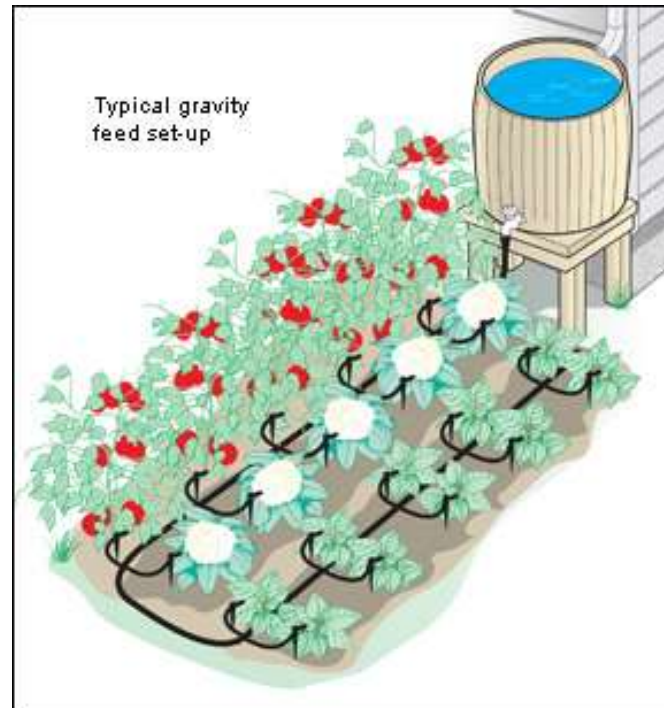
IMAGE CREDIT: MOTHER EARTH NEWS



[www.gmofreeusa.org](http://www.gmofreeusa.org)  
[www.facebook.com/gmofreeusa](https://www.facebook.com/gmofreeusa)  
[www.facebook.com/gmofreecanadagroup](https://www.facebook.com/gmofreecanadagroup)



# Work with Nature not against it; cooperation not competition



# Work is Pollution

“Tidiness is maintained disorder and a waste of energy.” Ben Haggard



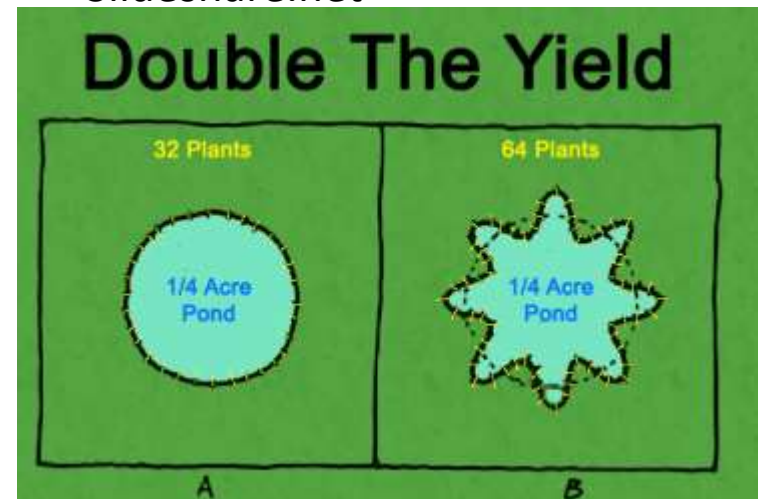
# Edge Effect

Optimize the edge for the greatest diversity and fertility.

You don't see many squares and rectangles in nature.



Slideshare.net



Schoolofpermaculture.com



# Relative Location

Going with the flow of

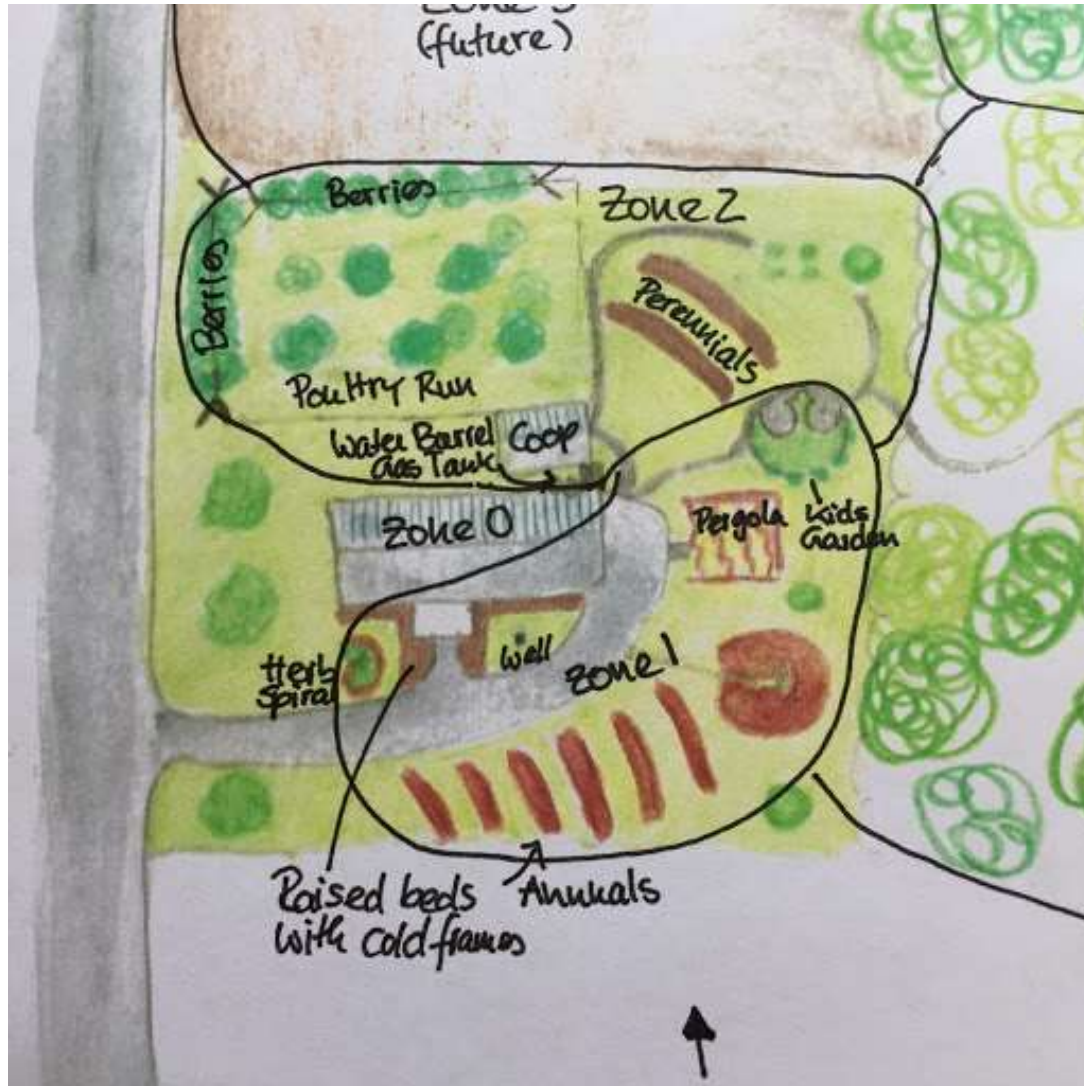
- Water
- Land
- Personal habits & energy

**Start small and get it right!**





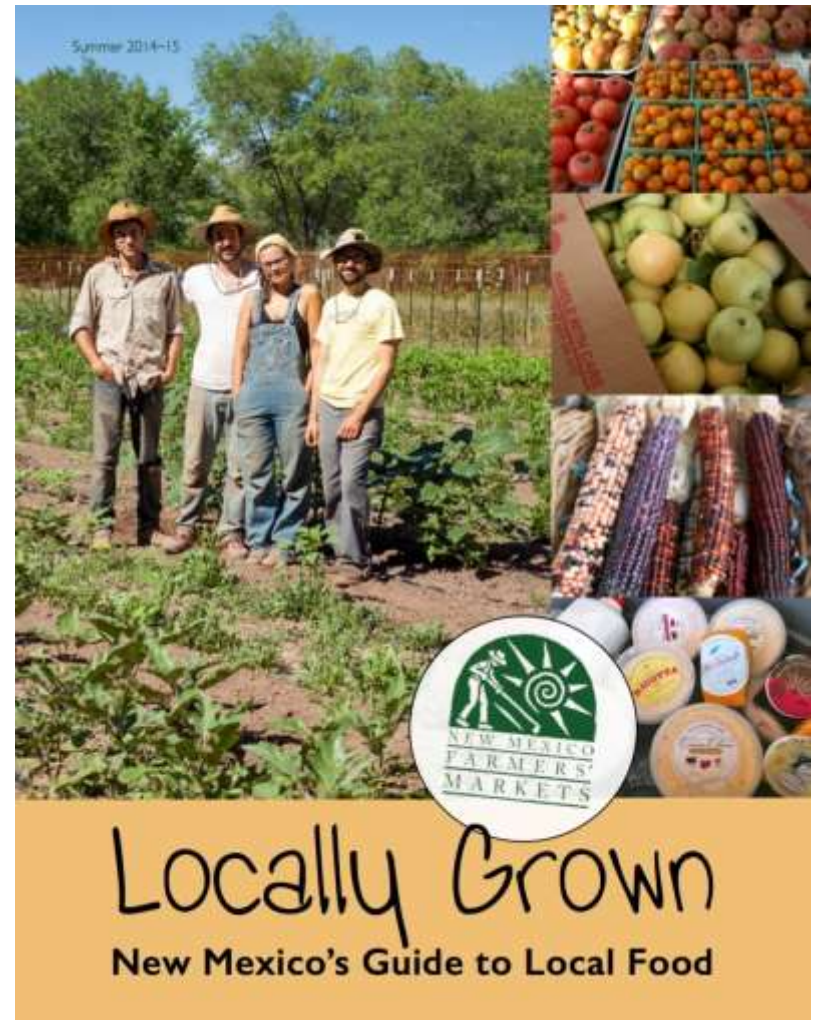
# Get in The Zone



Catskills Permaculture

# Building Soil Health

- Healthy Soils
  - Healthy Plants
  - Healthy People
- Rodale Institute



# Get your soil tested

- Know where you are now before adding to it
- See the soil improve with each year
- Optimum pH for vegetables is 6.0-7.2
- pH exceeds 7.5 (here 8+) iron, manganese, calcium, and phosphorus are less available to the plant.







Compost pile at Seed2Need

# Water - Our most limiting resource

- Where can you find it on your property?
- Where does it flow when it rains?



Texas A&M University



# Slow it down and keep it on site



# Cover it up - mulch

- Reduces water loss
- Moderates soil temps
- Protects plants
- Reduces weeds
- Provides slow nutrient release
- Keeps veggies off the soil surface & clean



Kellogg garden products

# Plant Mulches

- Large leaved plants that create shade
- Cut and drop
- Cut and compost
  - Squash
  - Comfrey
  - Rhubarb
  - Cardoon...



[Marylandgrows.umd.edu](http://Marylandgrows.umd.edu)



# Cover it up – perennial mulches



New Zealand white clover



Sesbania



Sainfoin

# Swales – slow flow, direct, and hold water





# Soil sponges

- Dig a hole
- Fill with organic matter
- Absorbs and holds soil moisture
- Good for trees



# Finally lets talk about growing food



# Diet Biodiversity



75% World's Food  
Comes from  
12 Plant &  
5 Animal species

Resiliency?



# Small Scale Intensive Gardens

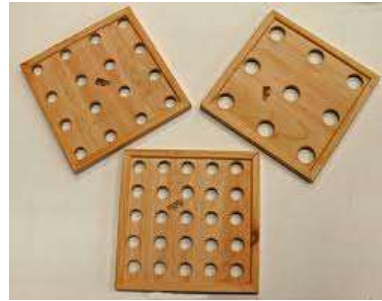
## Diverse Planting is Key

- Prevents build up of pest, weed, and disease populations
- Confuse insect pests
- Adds variety to the garden and your plate
- Include insectary plants



# Intensive Garden Spacing

- Square-foot gardening
- Bio-intensive: closer spacing in a pattern
- Weed suppression





# Adding edibles to your landscape to make a foodscape



<https://www.pinterest.com/agirlagarden/landscape-design-edible-landscaping-ideas/>



Rosalind Creasy *Edible Landscapes*

# Add perennials

- Trees – nitrogen fixers, fruit, & nut
- Shrubs
- Woody vines
- Vegetables –
  - Asparagus
  - Garlic
  - Sun chokes/artichokes





# Fill vertical spaces with edibles

- Space saving
- Time saving
- Back saving





## Plant It & Forget It Garden

No time to garden? These easy-care crops require very little attention during the growing season. Plant your garden in late spring and start harvesting by mid-summer.

[View the Garden Plan ►](#)



Gardeners.com

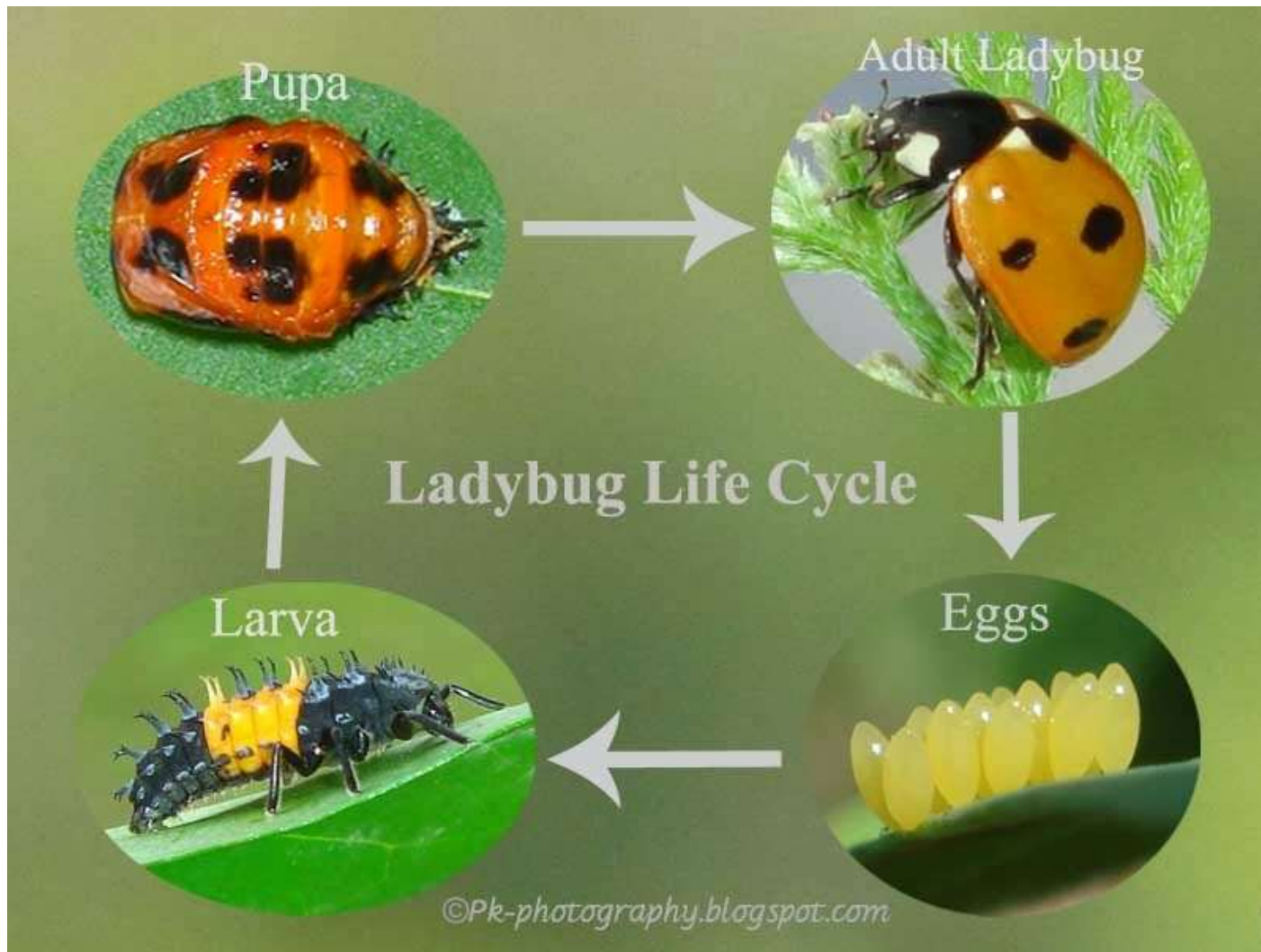




# Create habitat for beneficial insects



# Get to know their life cycle



# SEEDS

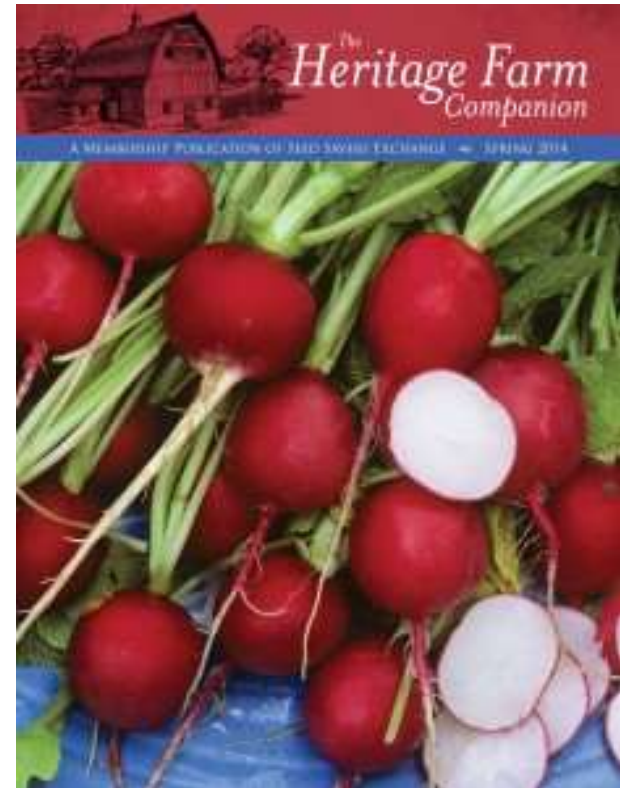


Glass Gem Corn



# Save your own seeds

- Every time you buy a packet of seeds you start at ground zero
- Super adaptors to your growing conditions with each year of growing and saving
- Share to create local seed systems





# Permaculture Resources

## Free online classes:

<https://permacultureapprentice.com/crisis-gardening/>

Five Ways To Save our Soil

<https://youtu.be/nSp7SuuP1R0>

<https://growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/growingsmallfarms-permaculturelinks/>

<https://mediasite.online.ncsu.edu/online/Catalog/Full/f5a893e74b7c4b7980fd52dcd1ced71521>

<https://tobyhemmenway.com/resources/>

<https://organiclifeguru.com/>

## **Books:**

Earth user's guide to Permaculture by  
Rosemary Morrow, Permanent Publications

Gaia's Garden: A guide to Home-Scale  
Permaculture by Toby Hemenway, Chelsea  
Green Publishing

The Permaculture Market Garden: A visual  
guide to a Profitable Whole-systems Farm  
Business by Zach Loeks, new society  
publishers. (Good examples of mapping  
your property and designing for diversity)

# Thank you



Lynda Garvin – [lgarvin@nmsu.edu](mailto:lgarvin@nmsu.edu)

NMSU Photo Archives