

## The 12 Permaculture Principles for Forests, Farms and Urban Yards

1. Observe and interact. Look at which elements are present: climate, topography, water, moisture conditions, soils, existing vegetation, wildlife, wind, and community are some of the elements there are to work with
2. Catch and store energy. Stored water is irrigation water for future crops. Biomass of a forest or trees represents a living storage for building materials, fuel, nutrients and water.
3. Attain a yield. Get a harvest from your work by choosing plants that produce diverse yields over ornamental plants. Yields include wood, honey, fruit and vegetables.
4. Apply self-regulation and accept feedback. Live simply and consciously; limit consumption; keep it in check.
5. Use and value renewable resources, which replenish with modest use. For example, plant orchard trees downslope from a forest to take advantage of the nutrient and water drift.
6. Produce no waste. Compost, reuse, recycle and repair when possible.
7. Design first, then apply. Study elements from Principal #1 before planting anything.
8. Integrate rather than segregate. The stronger the relationship is between systems, the stronger your overall system becomes.
9. Use small and slow solutions. Ex.: inoculating mushrooms into felled trees will spread the mushrooms and provide mushrooms for years to come
10. Use and value diversity. One small lot can house water storage, composting, forestry, orchard, gardens, wind power, grey water, fish in pond, etc.
11. Use edges and value the marginal: add edible hedge rows, create microclimates
12. Creatively use and respond to change: Plan for a more productive ecosystem; anticipate change

### Recommended Resources

- Holmgren, David, *Permaculture Principles and Pathways Beyond Sustainability*, 2002
- Millison, Andrew, *The Permaculture Principles*, Oregon State University ecampus, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mwRAf3z9ag>, 2016.
- Mollison, Bill, *Permaculture: A Designers' Manual*, 1988