

# Permaculture Landscapes that feed us.

By Diane Meucci, February 2013

**Gardensoyvey.com**

Diane Meucci & Wolfgang Marquardt

## What is Permaculture?

I asked Wikipedia: "Permaculture is a branch of ecological design...which develops sustainable ..."self maintained" agricultural systems modeled from natural ecosystems."

I particularly liked the Core Tenets: Take Care of Earth. Take Care of People. Share the Surplus.

Building an economy on Large Farming of Single Crops is how we have built every aspect of our culture. Bigger and "Better". Certainly More. And I believe it is failing us. But I am very encouraged by a younger generation that seems willing to embrace a new or renewed concept of small and integrated food and living systems.

Permaculture for myself and in the mid south as I will describe it is the possibility of installing in our back yards...all or part of our food, herb and sometimes building material needs. Or as a neighborhood we can each install a crop that each of us can share, sell or barter with.

The most important aspect of this as I see it is to Plant what Works here in Zone 7 or where ever you live, use the ground intensively...always full and planted through all seasons, and Plant trees, perennials, herbs, bamboos, mushrooms. "Permanent" and Semi Permanent Food Sources. Integrated with Annual Food Sources as well as some small animals and direct composting or recycling of our Carbon and Nitrogen sources.

Semi Permanent Yes. Self Maintained...Not likely. (Especially in the South!) But less and less over time.

As an Agricultural community...our history has been to use backs not brains...This is a spectacular opportunity for each of us to Create Beauty, Food and Community. Very Exciting times.

## Why is Permaculture important.

By Practicing intensive semi permanent and annual planting on each little square of available earth we can provide our own food and fuels and building materials, cut down on transport and fuel stress on the planet, perhaps provide a surplus for our neighbors, and heal the earth....I have been watching her for 30 years. We need to give back to her. Quick...and simply. Trees, Asparagus, Mushroom Logs. Winter Greens...Summer Sweet potatoes as cover crops. Animals for Manure. Leaves and Shredded Paper for Carbon to compost manure heat it up, kill pathogens and odors. GRASS CLIPPINGS for Manure, Mulch and BIO FUEL.

The earth is burning up. We need to re connect her to the systems of nature.

Permaculture is not necessarily a natural ecosystem but it can include aspects of ours and some selections for food.

Forest is our Ecosystem in the Mid South so Fruit Trees, Trees for Lumber, Bamboo, Mushrooms, Mushrooms with Blueberries and Black Berries might mimic our ecosystem and be the easiest to maintain.

But we like more choices and we can easily add herbs, regional and exotic, Asparagus beds which can produce for up to 30 years. DAYLILIES!!! Great for erosion...can't kill them...suppress weeds...and all parts are edible.

I would also advise that you double and triple crop every inch of soil to feed the earth, confuse predators, and reduce labor. Food, Flowers (feed the soul) Herbs, Lumber, Medicine, Animals.

## A Nursery Inside A Garden

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## Where to begin:

Kill your Lawn: Use Cardboard, 12-24 inches of Leaves, And Layer 1 inch of Grass Clippings into each 2-4 inches of Leaves.

Design Well: Make it Beautiful and Functional with wide paths and beautiful compost bins. Well designed chicken coops. Use Local Renewable Materials where ever possible.

(Tumbled Recycled Glass is now Available at Christy Cut Stone which is better than mining mountaintops for gravel and stone.)

Pine Needles, Leaves, Grass Clippings. Great Mulches.

Design as if it were any other garden and care for it as well. Hedges of Blueberries...Daylilies or Fig Trees on property lines...Curves where ever possible. Mint as Ground Cover.

Hand made Trellises for Tomatoes and Scuppernongs.

## Think Italy!

I have been growing Food and Beauty for 30 years Regionally and would be very happy to Guide you in Selections, Planting times and method, as well as seasonal seeding and a calendar of garden chores.

Find me Diane Meucci at [Gardensoyvey.com](http://Gardensoyvey.com)...Also [Gardens Oy Vey on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GardensOyVey) and at 901-867-8367 for a consult, purchases or garden tour. We are a 25 year old Garden with 15 thousand plants on site for purchase and a staff of eager educated associates.

I look forward to helping you make the transition, fail less, and make better choices.

**Exciting times.** Best. Diane Meucci [Gardensoyvey.com](http://Gardensoyvey.com)

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