

PERMACULTURE GUILD

A “guild” in Permaculture is a system of efficiently grouping different species together in order to use everything to its fullest potential. When planning a guild there are several things to keep in mind:

Nature works in steps:

Large species often depend upon the smaller plants around them.

Nature always has a variety

Observe the large diversity of plant life that occurs in an undisturbed forest, each plant has a specific purpose.

Nature “stacks” species in both time and space:

A natural forest is comprised of many layers of species that grow and die according to the season and which extend from high above the earth to deep below it.

The following is a list of seven different functions that a Permaculture guild tries to include:

1. Food	Staples, legumes, fruits, vegetables, and fats
2. Food for the soil	Legumes and organic matter that provide nutrients to the soil
3. Climbers	Important for making the most of vertical space
4. Supporters	Plants that provide support to climbers
5. Miners or diggers	Deep roots or tubers that open the soil and bring up nutrients from deep
6. Groundcovers	Protects soil, provides shade, holds moisture, and suppresses weeds
7. Protectors	Protection for others in the system (Repellents, attractors, live fencing, etc.)

