

ROOTS OF CHANGE
COMMUNITY GARDEN AND CO-OP



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**Fruit Trees &
Plant Guilds
Workshop**

**A zine & discussion on
plant support networks,
guilds, and how we relate
to community**

NOTES:

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A **guild** is a group that serve different functions, and when together create a mutually beneficial arrangement allowing them all to flourish.

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF MUTUAL AID THAT YOU'VE SEEN?

WRITE OUT A PLANT GUILD THAT YOU'D LIKE TO CREATE:

FUNCTIONS OF GUILDS

Nitrogen Fixers: These plants contain bacteria in connection with the roots that convert oxygen to nitrogen that that can use as fuel. Once they've used these nutrients, it becomes available for the plant and to the soil. A balance of nitrogen and carbon is essential for fertilization. Nitrogen rich plant material is also referred to as "greens"

Biomass Accumulators: These plants will have heavy leaf fall and coverage as they drop to the ground. Biomass are usually referred to as "browns" or plant material that is high in carbon.

Insectary: We need insects like bees, and various other pollinators for fruit. Insectary plants attract pollinators and can work as pest control.

Fruit: Fruit, usually comes after flowering and is what contains life-giving seeds that we can plant again or save for later.

IMPORTANCE OF SEED

Allowing fruits, and seed to fall to the earth into a mix of soil, browns, and greens can fertilize the seed and start the cycle over for semi-annuals. Saving seed, seed swapping, or starting a seed library are ways of preserving our histories and sharing our knowledge.

SOUTHERN PLANT GUILDS

1. Canopy Layer:

Pecan, Oak, Walnut, Loquat, Pear, Banana, Huisache, Retama

2. Sub Canopy Layer / Large Shrub

Peach, Plum, Pomegranate, Mtn Laurel, Redbud, Leadtree, Fig, Mimosa, Mulberry, Tree Senna, Leadtree, Tx Kidneywood,

3. Shrub

Senna, Goji Berry, Blackberry, Agarita, Yaupon Holly, Pineapple Guava, Larger Flowering Pollinators, False Indigo

4. Herbaceous

Comfrey, Yarrow, Herbs, Flowering Pollinators, Swiss Chard, Echinacea,

5. Ground Cover / Creeper

Mints, Dewberry, Horsemint, Strawberry,

6. Underground

Carrots, Jerusalem Artichoke, Sweet Potato

7. Vertical / Climbers

Passion Flower, Luffa, Beans, Malabar Spinach, Cucumber,

MUTUAL AID

“We work to replicate how root systems work, passing information and food around. My elders have taught me that our theory of change is to mimic nature in how we work together. I could do it myself but that would be taxing and less effective.”

-Xavier Brown of Soul Fire Farm from
“Farming While Black”

We need one another to survive. There is strength in community and strength in the collective. Each person having different needs, skill sets, wants, and histories. Each person, of equal importance and value.

Mutual aid is using the resources & skill sets we have to support each other. The goal of mutual aid is not only to support community but also to use the power of the people to build an infrastructure where we no longer need capitalist systems for us to thrive. In sharing our knowledge we can also keep our generational histories alive. Similar to how saving seed, to eventually be planted, keeps the history of that plant alive.

Some examples:

Carpooling, potlucks, hosting skillshare workshops, comadre economics, collective healing spaces, autonomous peace keeping collectives, community organizing, street medic groups, accountability circles, etc.



Layers of the Edible Forest Garden

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Canopy/Tall Tree | 5. Ground Cover/Creeper |
| 2. Sub-Canopy/Large Shrub | 6. Underground |
| 3. Shrub | 7. Vertical/Climber |
| 4. Herbaceous | |

Useful Functions Examples

Nitrogen Fixers: Lupine, Senna, Leadtree, Redbud, Mtn Laurel, Clover, Mimosa, Mesquite, Retama, False Indigo, Tx Kidneywood, Anacacho Orchid, Husache
Biomass Accumulators: Comfrey, Yarrow, Chamomile, Borage, Swiss Chard, Lemongrass,
Insectary: Chives, Bee Balm, Lovage, Native Flowers
Fruit: Peach, Pear, Plum, Loquat, Fig, Cold Hardy Citrus and Berries, Pomegranate, Mulberry,