

# PERMACULTURE GUILD

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

- Nature plants in steps:** Large plants depend upon the smaller plants around them.
- Nature always plants a variety:** Observe the large diversity of plant life that occurs in an undisturbed forest, each plant has a specific purpose.
- Nature “stacks” plants in both time and space:** A natural forest is comprised of many layers of plants 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:

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

