



PERMACULTURE

Gardening
Essentials

Garden Chat
16/5/20

Slideshow developed by
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What to plant in my zone in winter?

- <https://www.gardengrow.co.nz/zones/New%2BZealand%2B-%2Bcool~mountain>
- Frost cloth
- If growing in trays let them get at least 3- 5 true leaves, and bury the stems of brassicas



What can I grow when there is low light?

- Most winter vegetables require at least **6 hours of sunlight per day** to grow. 8 hours is best
- More light is needed if the part of the plant you want to eat is the root, flower or fruit. Thin leaves require the least sunlight – lettuce, silverbeet
- Since tomatoes also require at least 6-8 hours of sunlight, a summer garden can be on the east or west side, missing morning or evening sunlight
- Winter gardens need to be able to have access to **all** of the available light or you are unlikely to get any harvest. That means a prime location that isn't shaded
- If you don't have this, then consider growing sprouts, or look at foraging for edible weeds www.juliasedibleweeds.co.nz

What can I grow in low light?

In a low sun area, edibles are pretty much out – but natives are in

Shade gardens tend to have less flowers, exceptions are clivia, fuchsia, vireya, camelia, giant geranium

Go native: grasses, ferns, rocks, flax

Alternatives, indoor gardening/conservatory/greenhouse/cloches

Soil nutrients etc

- Organic matter
- Leaves, mulch, food scraps, worm bins, compost, lawn clippings, wood ash, biochar, newspaper, cardboard, sawdust, seaweed, rotten logs, coffee grinds, pet fur, road kill.
- <https://www.hill-laboratories.com/client-resources-2/crop-guides/>
- To reduce acidity (clay soil) add calcium (bones, eggshells) or wood ash

Simplest Lasagna Gardening Layers



REPEAT: Browns & Greens to ~3 feet high
(this will cook down to ~2')

GREENS - vegetable scraps, grass clippings

BROWNS

leaves, shredded paper, straw

WATER - Soak the paper layer with water

PAPER - cardboard, newspaper

GROUND - dirt, grass or weeds

Use what you have.



Seedling care

- Important to know the difference between germination environment and growing on
- Stable day/night temperatures
- Adequate light and spacing
- Slug control
- Water management

Seedling care – fert and environment

- After seedling is up, it will need sunlight, appropriate temperature, regular gentle watering
- To limit disease, a light breeze if possible, reduced humidity
- If not being pricked out within 6 weeks, apply a general liquid fert high in N – e.g. diluted worm tea

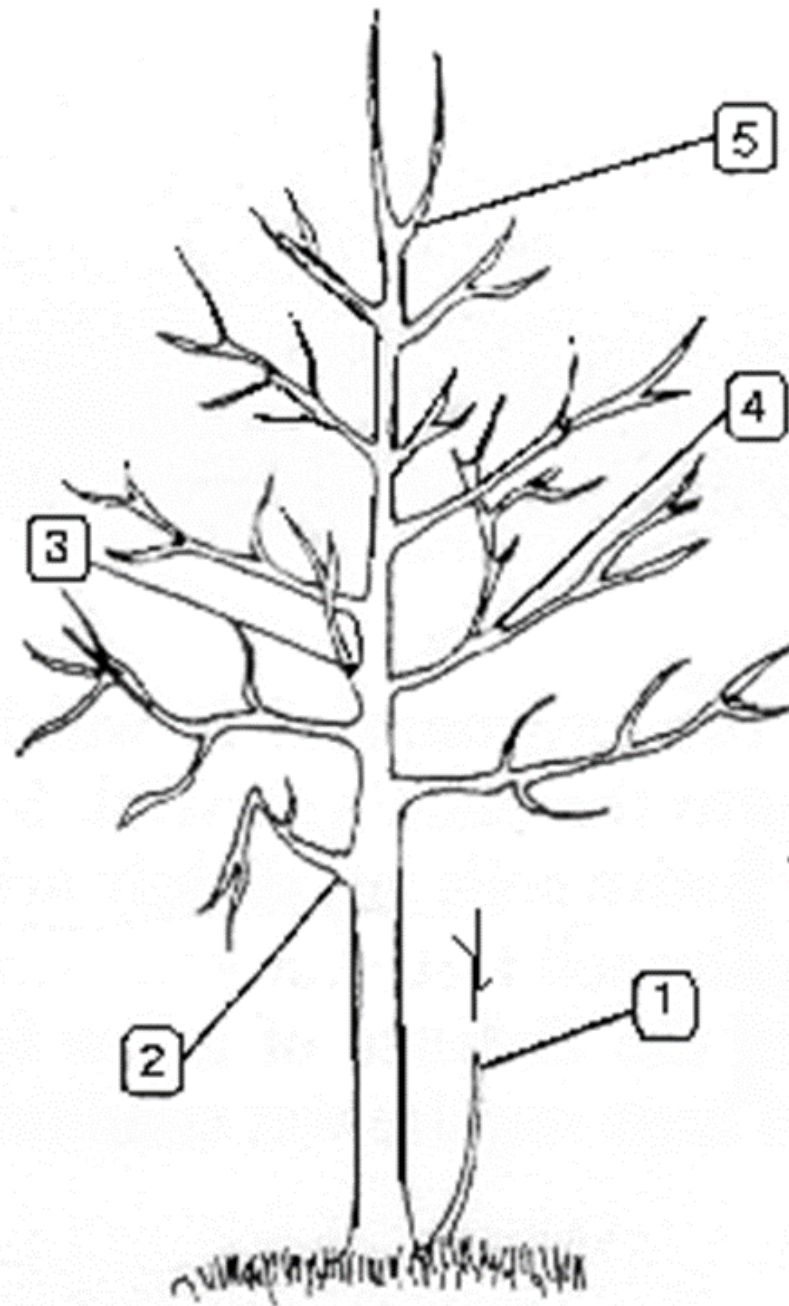


Requirements for an ideal growing environment

- Protected environment (greenhouse/shade house)
- Even, appropriate temperature (not too hot, cold or changeable)
- Bright light, slightly UV filtered. Top light source, or natural sun
- Moist soil, dry air
- Most greenhouses use a misting watering system, because it is gentle on young seedlings. Commercial seed raising mixes, trays on wire benches, airflow and drainage is excellent
- Consider a wicking bed – seedlings draw up water rather than it be top down



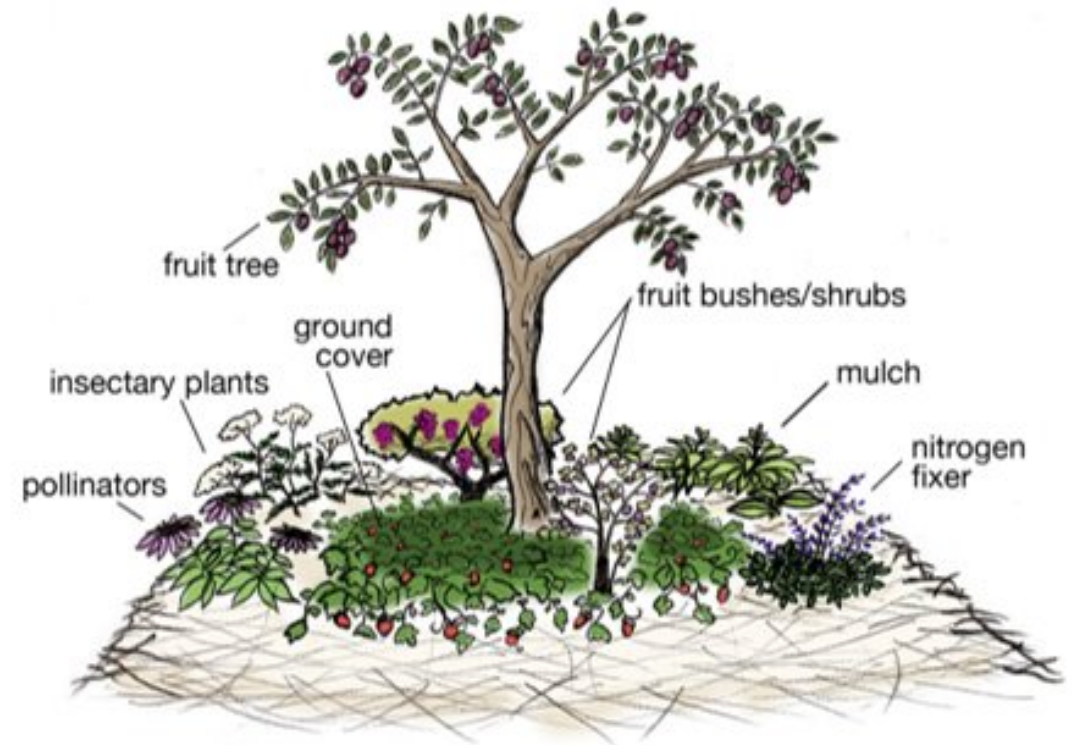
Pruning basics



- 1. sucker
- 2. broken branch
- 3. water sprout
- 4. interfering branch
- 5. double leader

Guilds and companion planting for trees

- Guilds are a permaculture approach to create a self-supporting community of plants that repress weeds, attract beneficials and synergistically enhance productivity
- Mimics natural plant ecosystems – think of sand dune communities, or forests, or mountain species
- Typically centred around a fruit tree with support plants
- Can be difficult to maintain when the plants used are exotics and weeds are vigorous
- Plant species will vary depending on climate, but typically plants from similar origins do well – cool climate: herbaceous plants, dormant phase e.g. potatoes, comfrey.
- Mediterranean herbs



Kikuyu



Gardening Essentials Course

- Covers all the critical things you need to understand and be able to do to garden successfully and grow food abundantly
- Starts: 6 June 2020, ends 17 May 2021
- Schedule: The 17 sessions work around holidays and work with the seasons, a session about every three weeks. Each session will be about 4.5 hours of learning from video presentation and live interaction
- Online for learning those at a distance, and face to face for those in the Tauranga area

Gardening Essentials Course

Dates and Topics 2020:

06 Jun	Seed Saving – Official start of 20-21 course
27 Jun	Propagation of Winter Hardwoods
18 Jul	Understanding Soils 1
01 Aug	Winter Fruit Tree Pruning
15 Aug	Fruit Tree Grafting
29 Aug	Understanding Soils 2
12 Sep	Propagation of Spring Seeds
17 Oct	Understanding Soils 3
07 Nov	Propagation of Summer Softwoods
21 Nov	Weed Management
05 Dec	Understanding Soils 4

Gardening Essentials Course

Dates and Topics 2021:

13 Feb	Pests
27 Feb	Companion Planting, plants for bird and insect retention
13 Mar	Summer Fruit Tree Pruning
27 Mar	Propagation -Autumn Semi-Hardwood
10 Apr	Diseases
08 May	Crop Management

Gardening Essentials Course

Cost:

- To honour you getting in on the ground floor and to reduce your risk:
- From now until the course starts on 6 June, we have a half price offer
- Save the most by signing up for the entire course. You'll receive two free sessions. That's \$35 per session. (\$599.95 one time payment)
- Or sign up for individual sessions at \$39.95 per session
- Prices will need to increase starting 7 June