# MAKING PERMACULTURE PALATABLE

FL PERMACULTURE CONVERGENCE 2022 | PERMACULTUREFX

### THE "WHY" - ESTABLISHING COMMON GROUND

- 1. To offset food PRODUCTION COSTS FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD
- 2. TO GROW MEDICINAL HERBS AND PLANTS, WHICH BUILD THE IMMUNE SYSTEM
- 3. TO CREATE A NATURAL HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE
- 4. TO ESTABLISH A PLACE OF WONDER AND CREATIVITY
- 5. TO EXPERIENCE PEACE AND HEALING IN THE MIDST OF A CHAOTIC CULTURE



#### THE "WHAT" = A FOOD FOREST OF PERENNIAL ABUNDANCE

#### COMMON GOALS

- 1. TO DESIGN A LOWER-MAINTENANCE FOOD SYSTEM
- 2. TO HAVE CONTINUAL HARVEST YEAR-ROUND
- 3. To maximize space, water, and sun exposure
- 4. TO DESIGN A SYSTEM THAT WILL LAST 100 YEARS
- 5. TO CREATE SYSTEMS THAT HEAL AND REGENERATE HUMANS AND THE LAND ITSELF



### THE "HOW" – A FLOWER FOR ONE AND A GARDEN FOR ALL

- We don't have to suspend one aspect of who we are to display another
- 2. Our values do not need to be hidden or watered down
- 3. We need to understand where others are and be humble enough to meet them there
- 4. A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down
- 5. Sometimes we start with milk and honey before we get to wagu beef and Okinawa sweet potatoes.



## EASY AND PALATABLE STEPS FOR SMALL BACKYARDS

(EVEN FOR PEOPLE IN SUBURBIA)

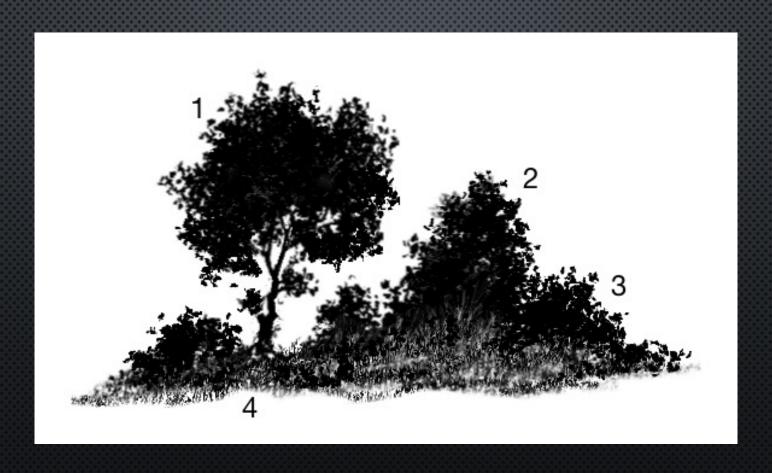
### STEP 1: ASSESS THE SITE AND PREPARE THE SOIL

- Determine appropriate <u>sun</u> exposure and <u>water</u> access for your food forest site.
- SOIL PREPARATION METHODS
  - WOOD-CHIPPING / LAYER MULCHING
  - SOLARIZIZING
  - HORICULTURAL VINEGAR

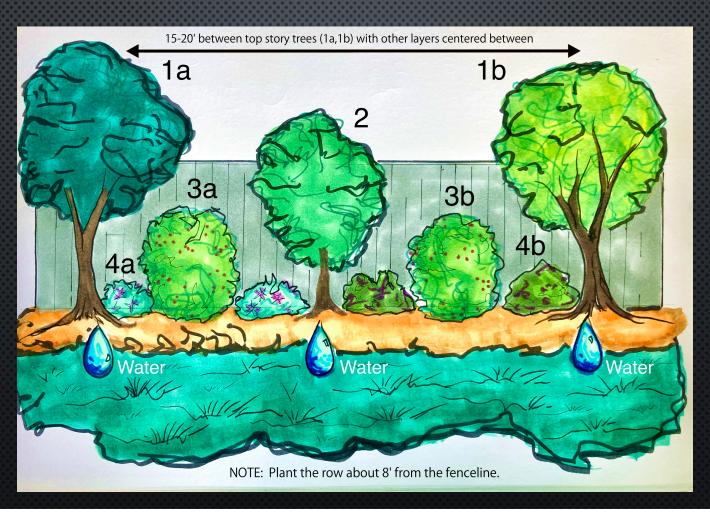
#### STEP 2: DETERMINE YOUR DESIGN & PLAN AHEAD

- SIMPLE SYSTEM (3 OR 4 LAYERS VS 7 LAYER SYSTEM)
- DRAW OUT YOUR PLAN (OR HIRE THIS PART) AND DETERMINE A FEW KEY FACTORS
  - 1 WHAT'S YOUR BUDGET?
  - 2 HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOU REALISTICALLY SPEND WEEKLY MAINTAINING IT?
  - 3 WHAT CAN YOUR SOIL CURRENTLY SUSTAIN?
  - 4 What is the best placement for the appropriate plants?

### GIVE THEM A SIMPLE FOOD FOREST SAMPLE



### PATTERNING FOR SMALL BACKYARDS



#### STEP 3: PLANT CANOPY TREES & GROUND COVERS

- SEED ANY EXPOSED SOIL WITH A GROUND COVER MIX
- PLANT TOP-STORY TREES AND NITROGEN FIXING SPECIES
  - MULCH AROUND THE BASE OF YOUR FRUIT TREES USING THE LAYER MULCHING METHOD.
  - SEE BLOG POST AT PERMACULTUREFX.COM FOR DIAGRAM

STEP 4: PLANT NITROGEN FIXING TREES & BIOMASS ACCUMULATORS (POSITION 2)

- PIGEON PEA
- CHRISTMAS CASSIA
- MORINGA
- MEXICAN SUNFLOWER
- CANDLESTICK CASSIA



### STEP 5: PERENNIAL SHURBS (POSITION 3)

- THIS LAYER WILL FURTHER PROTECT YOUR SOIL & IS OFTEN THE MOST PRODUCTIVE
- PERENNIAL POLLINATORS



### STEP 6: FILL IN REMAINING AREAS & CHECK LEGUME RATIOS

- 1:1 is ideal, but is sometimes unrealistic for smaller spaces
- 1/3 of Canopy trees should be legumes or biomass accumulators
- ADD BOTH PERENNIAL AND ANNUAL LEGUMES
- COPPICING VS POLLARDING TREES

### WHEN HELPING OTHERS IN A SMALL SUBURBAN SPACE

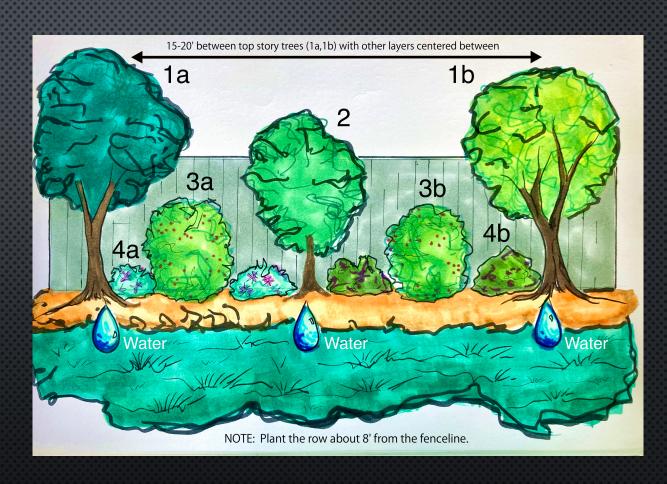
- FOCUS ON REPEATING PATTERNS
- CONSIDER MAXIMUM GROWTH HEIGHTS
- KNOW THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD REGULATIONS
- CONSIDER THEIR NEIGHBORS AND THEIR LINE OF SIGHT
- COMPLETE AN AREA BEFORE MOVING ON TO THE NEXT

## EXAMPLES OF SPECIES FOR A SUBURBAN FOOD FOREST

#### LAYER 1: CANOPY

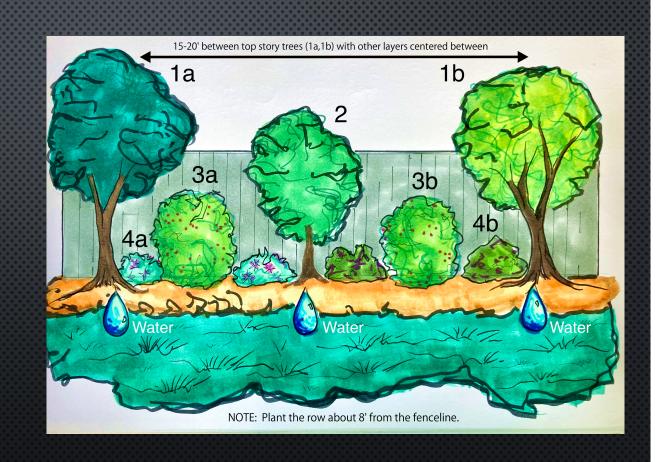
### BEST FRUIT TREES TO PLANT IN THE FALL OR WINTER

- PEACH
- PLUM
- NECTARINE
- LOQUAT
- MULBERRY
- OLIVE



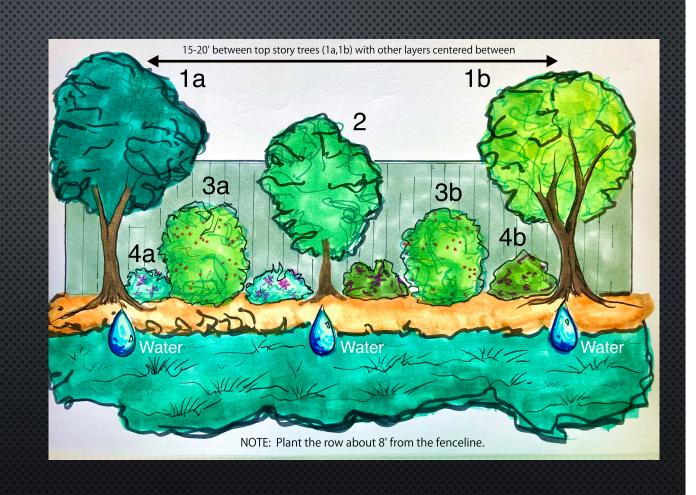
### LAYER 2: BIOMASS & NITROGEN FIXERS

- MORINGA
- TAMARIND
- PIGEON PEA
- MEXICAN SUNFLOWER



### LAYER 3: SHRUBS & BERRIES

- BARBADOS CHERRY
- YELLOW STAR CHERRY
- SWEET ALMOND SHRUB
- CHERRY OF THE RIO



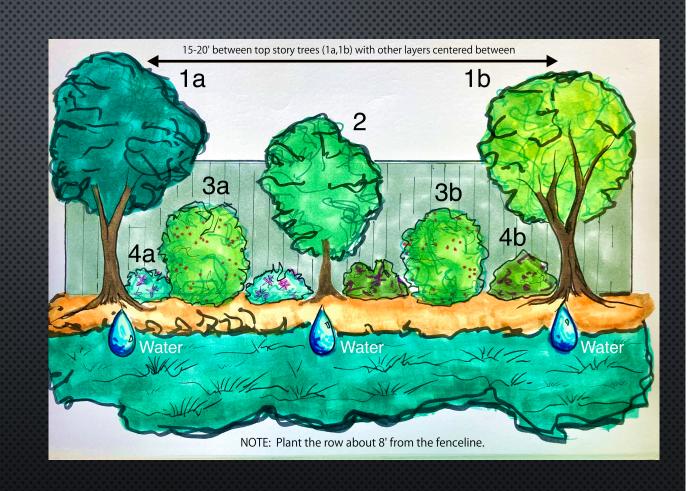
### LAYER 4: HERBACEOUS

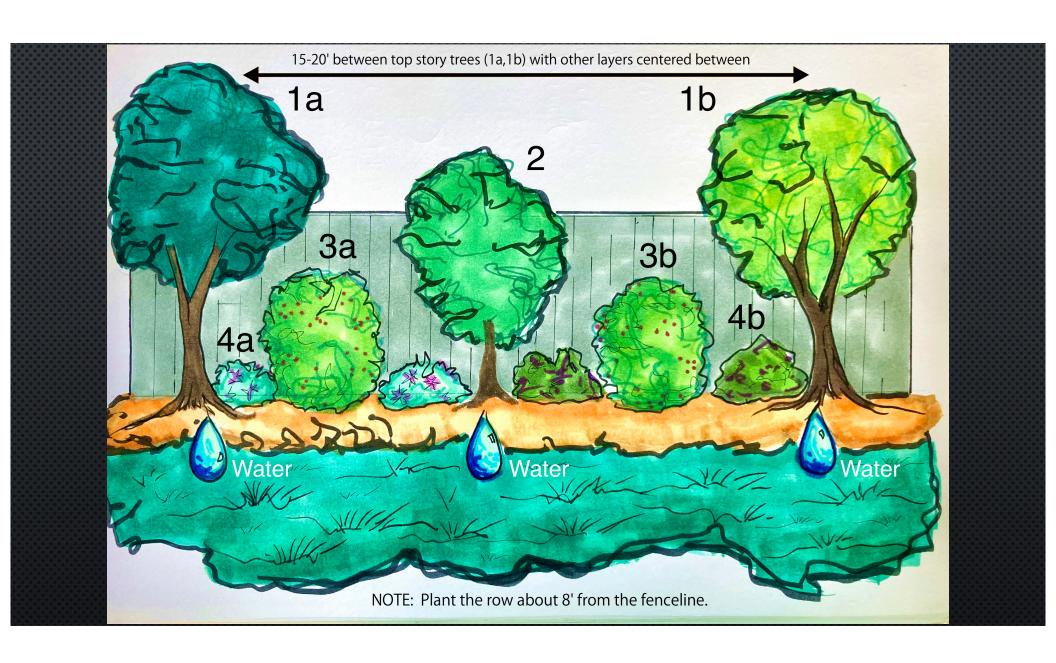
TROPICAL SPINACHES

#### **POLLINATORS**

- COREOPSIS
- PERENNIAL PEANUT
- Sunshine Mimosa
- CONEFLOWER
- FIRE BUSH

**EDIBLE HYBISCUS** 





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