

Permaculture: a multi-faceted, integrated and ecologically harmonious method of **designing** human-centered landscapes

Zone 0

This is the home itself, the center of activity. In the case of this example, this is the work space/outdoor classroom.

Zone 1

This is the most intensively used zone, and the most managed and controlled.

Zone 1 is the area nearest to the house, and also includes the most frequently accessed areas , such as alongside often used paths.

Keep in mind that this zone is defined by **access**, so if there is an area near the house that you don't visit, or is hard to get to, even if it sits next to the house itself, then it **is not** included in Zone 1.

If you leave your property daily to go work for example, then the path from the street to your house and the immediate areas alongside it **will** be included in Zone 1, as you visit these areas twice daily.

Elements that are located in this zone include all the things that you need to access most often, or that need the most frequent attention, such as:

- a kitchen garden to provide vegetables and salad greens which have a short growing season (time from planting to harvest) and herbs for teas and culinary use
- small trees which provide often used fruit, such as lemons
- rainwater tanks, water bores and wells

Zone 1 plantings usually employ complete mulching, using a system such as sheet mulching, and are fully irrigated with irrigation systems such as drip systems, which sit below the mulch on the garden beds.

Zone 1 is an intensive system, it is a human ecology that does not exist in Nature, and would fall apart without human attention.

Zone 2

This zone is also used quite intensively , but a bit less than Zone 1, and accommodates some of the larger and slightly less frequently used elements, that still need fairly frequent attention.

Elements that are located in this zone include all the things that you need reasonably often, or that need the fairly frequent attention, such as:

- perennials and vegetables which have a long growing season (time from planting to harvest)
- fruit trees/orchards
- compost bins

Zone 2 plantings can employ complete mulching using a system such as sheet mulching, but if the area is too large and this is impractical then spot mulching around the trees may be employed, and tree guards can be used to protect trees while they get established. These plantings are fully irrigated using irrigation systems such as drip systems.

Zone 3

The zone is basically farmland, where the main crops are grown (for personal use and to sell) and where orchards of larger trees are located.. Once these areas are established, they only require minimal maintenance and care.

Elements that are located in this zone include all the things that require infrequent attention only, such as:

- orchards of larger trees
- main farming crops

Zone 3 plantings employ green mulching, which is an under-planting of ground cover plants which serve as a 'living mulch' for the trees. These plantings are unpruned, and not all plants have irrigation to water them.

Zone 4

This zone is a part wild/part managed, and its main use is for collecting wild foods, timber production, as a source of animal forage, and pasture for grazing animals.

The trees in this zone are managed by allowing animals to browse to control new growth, or by thinning (removing) seedlings to select the variety of trees that will be allowed to grow.

Zone 5

This zone is an unmanaged wild natural ecosystem, such as bushland, forest or similar natural area, free of human intervention, interference or control.

Zone 5 is a wilderness conservation area, and space that provides us with the opportunity to step down from our role of controlling Nature, to one where we can just witness Nature in its pure form, where we can simply observe the cycles of Nature and learn from what we see. It is the place where we can meditate and reconnect with Nature, and come to understand our place in the world.

The wilderness area does not have to be restricted to the outer perimeters of a property in a design. Zone 5 can extend as a wedge all the way from the outer perimeter right up to the house, to create a wildlife corridor as part of a design that brings natural ecosystem close to the home.

In urban areas, Zone 5 can be a nearby creek or a neglected area of unused vacant land.