

FOOD FOREST WORKSHOP

17 September 2016

A **food forest** is a designed perennial agriculture system that mimics a forest edge ecosystem, giving you a more stable, energy efficient and productive food system.

MORNING SESSION : THEORY

Understand the set of principles and concepts to keep in mind while designing your sustainable food forest. This will include:

- the use of permaculture principles relevant to food forest design
- how a food forest is different from a conventional orchard or garden
- planning your food forest, including looking at topography, orientation, climate and outside influences that are site specific
- the seven layers of a food forest system and the characteristics and role each one plays
- soil preparation
- specific plant selection.

AFTERNOON SESSION : PRACTICAL

We will put these principles and strategies into practice with a site visit. You can choose between a smaller backyard scale site or something rural and larger scale. Within small groups you will be applying theory learned from the morning session to create a site plan for a future food forest.

The different groups will then come back together to share the plans of their respective sites and give suggestions and feedback.

By the end of the day you will have worked through the design process and seen a number of examples of food forest design. You will then be ready to design and implement your own food forest or help someone else with theirs.

Emily and Gary Williams, our tutors, are qualified Permaculture Design Certificate teachers, running regular PDC courses from their permacultural property near Otaki. Gary is a water and soil engineer with Emily having an architectural landscaping background. Both are involved in designing and implementing a commercial-scale food forest in Wairarapa. Emily also teaches NZQA approved organic horticulture courses in which she calls on her many years experience growing organically.