

Zone, Sector & Elevation Planning

AIMS:

- Understand the importance of zone sector and elevation planning.
- Examine the correct placement of elements.
- Understand the harnessing of natural resources.

Permaculture design takes into account:

* Zones * Sectors * Slope/Elevation * Orientation/Aspect

Zoning depends on the degree of intensity of inputs, the frequency of visits and the amount of maintenance required.

A property can be considered as a series of zones, starting with the home centre and working out to areas of less intensive input requirements. Energy efficiency/furthest away/most difficult to get to - least attention.

Placement of the elements in a system depends on importance, priorities, number of visits required. Species, elements and strategies vary in each zone. Those needing most energy input are concentrated nearest the centre.

Zone 00 - Self, individual, community and their relationships, needs & obligations.

Zone 0 - Home or centre of activity.

Zone 1 - The home garden - highly intensive. Includes herbs and vegetable garden. All things that need daily attention. Totally mulched. Start at back door and work outwards. Zones 1 & 2 are used for domestic sufficiency.

Zone 2 - Intensively cultivated, spot-mulched, well-maintained, selected and grafted species. Intensive dense planting - small animals like chickens, quail, pigeon and duck. Stacking. Forest Garden.

Zones 1 & 2. e.g. fruit trees for later grafting/selection. Self-forage systems for chickens, cattle, sheep, bees etc. Hardier bush and tree species, windbreaks and firebreaks, spot and rough mulching. Hedgerows.

Zone 3 - Zones 3 & 4 are the zones for commercial production. Not on every site. Less intensive than Zones 1 & 2.

Zone 4 – Managed woodland. Long-term development. Coppice and/or standard trees. Timber, fuel and forage.

Zone 5 - Unmanaged wilderness area. Our learning ground about natural systems. Rarely if ever visited. Yields may be harvested - seasonal hunter-gathering. Turfed roofs in cities. Leave corridors for wildlife in ALL the zones.

Sector planning deals with the energies that pass through a site. Good design moderates these energies. Too little water is a drought. Too much water is a flood. We need to capitalise on shortages and ameliorate excesses. See microclimates.

These energies include: Winter and Summer sun sectors. Wind sector. Cold air. Fire, Water/Flood, Frost, Pollution, Good & bad views!

What other sectors might there be on a site?

Elevation: Use gravity to max effect - water and storages.

Flows of cold air and frost downhill, warm air rising.

Movement of nutrients down slope - nutrient traps.