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Bringing permaculture to your yard

By **Jean Lovell** Center for ReSource Conservation
Posted: 09/26/2011 01:31:06 PM MDT

If you go

What: Introduction to the Permaculture Yard

When: Sunday

Where: ReSource Yard, 6400 Arapahoe

Cost: \$25

Info: conservationcenter.org, click on Tool School. Participants must pre-register and pay in advance.

Q. I already recycle my gardening waste; what are some other ways to make gardening more earth-conscious?

A. You are in luck. The Tool School, a program of the ReSource Tool Library is presenting a class Sunday -- Introduction to the Permaculture Yard -- which will give you some more options. The term "permaculture" was coined in the 1970s in Australia meaning specifically "permanent agriculture." While its meaning has evolved to apply to many systems, it remains an important concept in gardening and farming.

Permaculture is centered on care of the Earth and of all living beings, as well as on using our resources equitably through such things as limiting consumption and recycling. Permaculture considers the entire system of maintaining gardens and farms through observing and working with nature rather than against it (working smarter, not harder). The objective of permaculture is to foster mutually beneficial relationships between land, plants, animals, and people. It's also the art of achieving the most by doing the least, including allowing certain types of weeds

because they heal the soil and their seeds fertilize the soil.

Mature woodlands are the basis for the concept-- a mixture of trees with smaller plants below. All the parts are interconnected. Plants grow at different heights and come into leaf and fruit at different times. Everything serves multiple functions and several elements provide similar functions. For example, apple trees supply fruit for food and a cash crop, cores for compost, leaves for mulch, dead twigs for kindling, and shade for people, animals, and other plants.

New to me is the definition of guilds as plant and animal communities that work well together for mutual benefits. An example is the combination of maize, squash and beans.

Jean Lovell has spent more than 10 years volunteering for the Center for ReSource Conservation.

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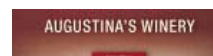
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