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Sepp Holzer's Permaculture: A Practical Guide To Small-Scale, Integrative Farming And Gardening



Synopsis

Sepp Holzer farms steep mountainsides in Austria 1,500 meters above sea level. His farm is an intricate network of terraces, raised beds, ponds, waterways and tracks, well covered with productive fruit trees and other vegetation, with the farmhouse neatly nestling amongst them. This is in dramatic contrast to his neighbors' spruce monocultures. In this book, Holzer shares the skill and knowledge acquired over his lifetime. He covers every aspect of his farming methods, not just how to create a holistic system on the farm itself, but how to make a living from it. Holzer writes about everything from the overall concepts, down to the practical details. In Sepp Holzer's Permaculture readers will learn:

- How he sets up a permaculture system
- The fruit varieties he has found best for permaculture growing
- How to construct terraces, ponds, and waterways
- How to build shelters for animals and how to work with them on the land
- How to cultivate edible mushrooms in the garden and on the farm and much more!

Holzer offers a wealth of information for the gardener, smallholder or alternative farmer yet the book's greatest value is the attitudes it teaches. He reveals the thinking processes based on principles found in nature that create his productive systems. These can be applied anywhere.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Chelsea Green Publishing (April 11, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9781603583701

ISBN-13: 978-1603583701

ASIN: 160358370X

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 170 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #51,738 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in [Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Horticulture](#) #22 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Garden Design](#) #34 in [Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Sustainable Agriculture](#)

Customer Reviews

"A fascinating book written by a man who has devoted a lifetime to working with nature and creating extraordinarily diverse polycultures. His work is breathtaking."--Maddy Harland, editor of

Permaculture Magazine "There, at an altitude which everyone else has abandoned to low-value forestry, what is probably the best example of a permaculture farm in Europe stands out like a beacon."--Patrick Whitefield, permaculture author and teacher ForeWord Reviews- Holzer's beautifully designed and illustrated book is essential reading for all who care about the land and the vast interrelated web of living beings who inhabit it, and it is especially timely, since small and organic farmers in the United States are being threatened by agribusiness, chemical companies, and others who view nature as something to conquer and ravish rather than honor and learn from. Large- and small-scale farmers, home gardeners, and even those who only have room to grow in a few pots on a city balcony will find Holzer's methods applicable and effective, his reasoning and knowledge impeccable, and his spirit pure and honest. (Kristine Morris)"The real story of a 110+ acre commercial permaculture farm featuring 14,000 fruit trees with diverse understory plants, complete integration of rotationally grazed livestock, terraces and rainwater harvesting, and so much more. Anyone interested in taking permaculture to a larger scale in a cold climate will benefit from Sepp Holzer's 40 years of practical experience implementing permaculture principles."--Eric Toensmeier, author of Perennial Vegetables and co-author of Edible Forest Gardens Here's great news for fruit-loving gardeners everywhere! Most of the work of establishing, pruning, and tending fruit trees by 'modern' methods is unnecessary and even counterproductive. Sepp Holzer's Permaculture is the One-Straw Revolution for tree crops.--Carol Deppe, author of The Resilient Gardener: Food Production and Self-reliance in Uncertain Times "After reading this book, all I can say is Sepp Holzer is a Superstar Farmer. Holzer turns out an absolutely remarkable volume and variety of food products, all without one smidgen of chemical fertilizer, and on land in Austria that an Illinois corn farmer would pronounce too marginal for agriculture. American farmers and gardeners will be particularly interested in Holzer's raised beds--which are quite different in construction from ours in the U.S.--as well as his inventive water well irrigation systems, unique methods for integrating livestock into his fruit and vegetable gardens, and practical, low-labor way to grow mushrooms. A fascinating book for anyone who aspires to become the ultimate, champion professional of sustainable farming."--Gene Logsdon, author of Holy Shit: Managing Manure to Save Mankind, and The Contrary Farmer "As the era of cheap energy, stable climates and surplus fertilizer stocks comes to a close, the principles of permaculture will become increasingly attractive as one way to design our future food and agriculture systems. Sepp Holzer's Permaculture provides important insights for applying these principles, for both rural farming and emerging forms of urban agriculture."--Frederick Kirschenmann, President, Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture

Josef ("Sepp") Holzer was born in the province of Salzburg, Austria. He is a farmer, author, and an international consultant for natural agriculture. He took over his parents' mountain farm business in 1962 and pioneered the use of ecological farming, or permaculture, techniques at high altitudes (1,100 to 1,500 meters above sea level) after being unsuccessful with regular farming methods. Called the "rebel farmer" because he persisted in these practices despite being fined and even threatened with prison for practices such as not pruning his fruit trees (unpruned fruit trees survive snow loads that will break pruned trees). He has also created some of the world's best examples of using ponds as reflectors to increase solar gain for passive solar heating of structures, and of using the microclimate created by rock outcrops to effectively change the hardiness zone for nearby plants. He has also done original work in the use of Hugelkultur and natural branch development. He is conducting permaculture ("Holzer Permaculture") seminars at his farm and worldwide, while continuing to work on his alpine farm. His farm now spans over 45 hectares of forest gardens, including 70 ponds, and is said to be the most consistent example of permaculture worldwide. He is author of several books and the subject of the film *The Agricultural Rebel*. He works nationally as permaculture activist in the established agricultural industry and works internationally as adviser for ecological agriculture. He is the author of *Desert or Paradise: Restoring Endangered Landscapes Using Water Management, Including Lake and Pond Construction*, and *Sepp Holzer's Permaculture: A Practical Guide to Small-Scale, Integrative Farming and Gardening*. Patrick Whitefield (1949 – 2015) was an early pioneer of permaculture, adapting Bill Mollison's teachings with a strong Southern Hemisphere bias to the cooler, maritime climate of the British Isles. He wrote a number of seminal books, including *Permaculture in a Nutshell* (1993), *How to Make a Forest Garden* (1996), *The Living Landscape* (2009), *How To Read the Landscape* (2014) and his magnum opus, *The Earth Care Manual* (2004), an authoritative resource on practical, tested, cool temperate permaculture. Patrick appeared in several BBC TV programmes, popular gardening videos, and taught many permaculture and other practical courses, throughout the UK.

I never expected this to be one of the most interesting books I've read (I've read a lot of them) but it is. The author's book "Desert or Paradise" is just as wonderful, and goes into more depth about his experiences traveling to different countries to solve some of their problems than this one. It has really changed the way I think about the earth's problems and what I can do with the land I own to improve it. I would love to meet the gentleman.

Everyone should read this book. Sepp Holzer is nothing but inspiring and as lovable as a teddy bear. Practical, caring, sure footed, observant, innovative, determined and intuitive, Sepp Holzer has listened to his gut and Nature and created a working, sustainable and self-supporting farming system in one of the most challenging environments for agriculture (the chilly, steep Alps). If everyone in the world emulated his approach to living on, working with, eating, supporting and profiting from the earth while respecting and keeping all elements and creatures happy...tree top to microbe, we would be living as close to Paradise as we can get. "Do or do not, there is no try."
-Yoda ...Let us all be doers, as Sepp Holzer is.

The new benchmark in sustainable agriculture. Sepp Holzer breaks all the 'conventional' agriculture rules, and shows why modern agriculture is failing to take care of the earth and live within nature. Sepp doesn't just talk a good talk, he has proof all over the world. Wherever Sepp goes, transformation of the land takes place. His home is the new garden of eden. This book covers a to z. Everything you wanted to learn about living with nature and profiting through a healthy relationship with the earth. Nature has great abundance to offer when we learn to live within her systems. Sepp discusses plant propagation, guilds, animal husbandry, and mushroom farming that you can do too!

This book is well worth the money to acquire it. This man is brilliant and knows everything about Permaculture. You can't go wrong to use his methods to establish a self-sustaining paradise.

Mr. Holzer's book was fantastic, my husband and I are reading it together, we are almost finished. When we bought our farm, we had a clean slate, the land had not been farmed in many years, we are doing just about everything on it either with a tractor or by hand, including fencing the entire thing in with a "by hand" post hole digger. We have been searching for information on how to make this a "multipurpose" "self-sufficient" farm. A farm with the main goal of being able to help feed the less fortunate & feed our family, we did not want to use any chemicals! We have prayed over our land even before we bought it, that God would use it in a big way! We feel God led us to read this book, we had NEVER heard of permaculture, though my husbands family had farmed for many years & as we have learned in this book, some of the reasons my husbands Grandfather did things the way he did them was for the very reasons that Mr. Holzer farms the way he does!! We are so excited as we plan to build "earth shelters" around our farm, and there is several areas where the "terraces" he spoke of will do so much good for us! The only downfall I have found so far is that Mr. Holzer's book The Rebel Farmer is not available on the Kindle! We are going to have to order a

"real book". Other reviews I read said he did not go into enough detail.. OH YES HE DID! The details are fantastic! And he does state in this book that he has even more detailed information in The Rebel Farmer! I plan to order it right away! Thank you Mr. Holzer for sharing your very important information with all of us! And thank you that it was available on the Kindle!! What a fantastic find the Lord has led us too! There will be many many people that will benefit from our farm for years, God willing, thanks to YOU Mr. Holzer!! Our Farm is named aptly "Matana Farm", Matana is a Hebrew word for "gift". This farm was a gift from God and we plan on passing the gifts on for many years to come!! Thank you Mr. Holzer & Kindle!!

This book was full of brilliant ideas that were written in a really easy to read book. I particularly enjoyed his advice on keeping pigs, under planting fruit trees, his medicinal herbs and recipes, and his storage of foods over winter. Compared with other books on permaculture it is refreshing not to have green philosophies shoved down the throat of the reader, after all if a person buys a permaculture book we already have a fairly strong view of wanting to work with nature not against it. I would highly recommend this book.

There are few things I enjoy as much as a book that entertains while teaching you something at the same time. You actually find yourself getting more confident in your own planning phase as you read this book. The one glaring problem is the smudged ink and fingerprints left behind as you try and remember not to rest your finger on the print for too long. I am by far no leader of industry or printing expert. But it shouldn't be a big stretch to think most anyone printing on paper that has the qualities of this book - at least use ink that once dry can't be pushed around the paper as if I'm reading a newspaper. Other than this one issue - this is a sustainable book hahaha. Until I need to buy another because the print is un-readable.

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