

# Dismantling the Myths of Forest Garden Guilds in Permaculture, Robert Kourik, Keynote – 2-24-22

## Guilds as Defined by Some

- 1 Mimics the multi-layered forest
- 2 Layers, tall to ground cover
- 3 Greater yields than monocrop plantings
- 4 Less work, low maintenance
- 5 “Dynamic accumulators” - companion plantings
- 6 Nitrogen fixation
- 7 Some roots grow deep to gather special nutrients
- 8 Can leave unpruned, come back, and harvest

## Realistic Guild Guidelines

- 1 Tropics is more applicable than the temperate zone
- 2 Difficult to prune, harvest, and clean fallen fruit
- 3 A few studies, no data, (Balkan study)
- 4 No studies, no data, no science (Balkan study)
- 5 Close plantings not needed, many myths
- 6 Not needed with many deciduous fruit trees
- 7 Probably not true, some science
- 8 Not with many deciduous fruit trees