
(Eight)finity lessons on learning of growing food

The story of a man who is trying to grow a garden from the ashes of the soul - Andriy Zeleniuk

by Iryna Kazakova, 2021



Before

Observing nature in the old garden, Andriy came to a conclusion that he's surrounded by free and endless potential for creativity. He got himself a goat and spent time in his garden, where branches of apple trees covered him from the scorching sun. At the same time, people around were fighting weeds. Neighbouring fields turned into a desert, and people were planting plants, and endlessly watering the land, dried by wind erosion and the sun.

Seeing this as absurd, Andriy decided to learn how to avoid such unnecessary processes, enjoy work, and waste less time. As a result, he found "a garden for the lazy." This was the entrance into the world of permanent agriculture. Andriy was impressed by the ideas of J. Lawton, Z. Holzer and B. Mollison. And all this could have been an unrealizable dream if Andriy had not get PDC, where one of the first permaculture centres in Ukraine was created.



Process

Andriy considers that course as one of the turning points of his life and says that each of the people who joined in rekindled the fire of life in him and became both the cause and witnesses of the miracle. It was a unique experience, where everyone was both a teacher and a student.

At the moment, Andriy is not engaged in growing food - he is attracted to the city life, but for him it is like the reverse side of a coin. You need to know all the forms and possibilities of life. However, the principles of permaculture for Andriy are the basis of everything he encounters, especially the principle of interconnection and interaction. In the city, Andriy also creates environments - artistic ones - by painting the walls and realizing his newly discovered talent on the course. He has not given up on his dream and plans to return to the village in the near future to create a forest garden. It is very

important for Andriy to see and understand that we all write the whole story together, in which each role is unique, but each of us gives weight to this role.

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I.K. Comment

This is not the first time that people on the PDC either discover or get recognition for their talents. Someone is for the first time drawing a scheme or sketching plants, someone is making a technical project for the first time or holds tools in hand, someone is discovering the talent of a facilitator or leader. The course is a huge opportunity for everyone - and not necessarily only in the field of growing food. Very often it is the beginning of a new path in life.