**FOOD FOREST PLANNING AND PLANTING WEEKEND WORKSHOP**

Learn how food forests work – how they can be designed, planned and maintained, and the sort of plants that can be put into them to make the food forest look after itself after a few years and give you very little work for a lot of return in food nutrition. The course covers the following:

***A Food Forest - what is it and why do I need it?***

* A layered food systems with plants at different heights - canopy layer, shrub layer and perennial/ground cover layer – a way to grow perennial food with little maintenance.

***Products of a food forest***

* Fruits, vegetables, salad crops, herbs, nuts, seeds, spices, firewood, mushrooms on logs, medicine, honey, sap, poles, canes, tying materials, basketry.

***Key features - 7 layers of a food forest***

* Vertical Layers, Medium to large canopy, small trees, bush fruit and nitrogen fixers, climbers, root crops, ground cover

***Planting for fertility***

* Planting species that will nurse your productive plants and feed them potassium and nitrogen.

***Site analysis***

* Sun angles, sectors, shelter, water and soil

***Ground preparation, planning and maintenance***

* Start as you would plan out an orchard, but timing is important, as is weed control and fertilizing

***Plant propagation***

* Learn to propagate the trees, shrubs, roots, groundcovers you will need to grown your food forest

***Timing of planting and designing the layers***

* Learn when to plant the different layers that you have designed

***Identifying site specific plants***

* Find the microclimates on your property and identify what can be planted there

***Using design tools***

* Use a range of tools to help you realise your design

***Completing a design***

* Get your food forest design down on paper
* 2 day weekend course. Cost $200 per person or $300 for two people learning together. Places are limited to 15. Cost includes morning and afternoon tea.
* Practical and theory sessions based on an urban permaculture property in New Plymouth which has a fledgling food forest.
* To book a place on the course, contact: Dee Turner: 0211252035 or derinatur@hotmail.com