



## Preparing for an Installation with Freedom Foodscapes

Now that your food forest design has completed, it's time to consider the plan for the installation. Will you pursue this as a DIY project or hire a professional installer? Consider the amount of time, energy and effort required to implement a food forest. More importantly, proper installation techniques are required to insure a thriving system. For these reasons, it may be best to hire a trained permaculture installer. If you choose to have your system installed professionally, the following details will be helpful:

- 1 Goals and Objectives:** Do you plan to complete the full installation or do it in a phased approach to spread your budget over several seasons/years? Do you want the system to mature and produce faster? Planting older trees will shorten the time to maturity, but impacts the overall cost. Are there components of the project that you will take on (e.g., building elements like an arbor or purchasing your own seeds and plants)?
- 2 Communication:** The designer is often not the same person installing your food forest. It is highly recommended that you ensure that your installer is engaged during the design discussions to eliminate duplication of questions or concerns. This will keep the team very cohesive and allow the installer and designer to keep open dialogue to best serve you.
- 3 Budget:** Providing the installer with a budget range can help them be more consultative in their installation approach. They have the insight into market costs and can help prioritize where to spend money in the most impactful way, including phasing your installation over time. A food forest system does have a significant return on your investment, therefore, the sooner and more complete the system is built out, the sooner you'll be able to realize bigger returns.
- 4 Desired aesthetics:** Do you have a color palette for the non-edible components? If including a raised bed, do you have a preference in material (wood/metal)? What types of pathways and edging would you like? Do you have any additional add-ons that may require the skill of a craftsman like an arbor or trellis or maybe a pond? What type of fencing would you like? Are you including water catchment systems and if so, what look do you want to achieve?
- 5 Timeline:** While you may have a particular timeframe in mind, the installer may be running multiple projects and may have to juggle their time at different locations. This may require multiple starts/stops on your installation to ensure all clients are managed properly to get the most food into the ground as quickly as possible. The lead on your installation will remain in close contact with you for scheduling.
- 6 Restroom Access:** Will you allow access to a restroom in your home or will a portable restroom be required? Having immediate access will allow the installer's crew to limit time away from the installation.
- 7 Materials:** Large quantities of materials may need to be dumped. Your installer will work with you to ensure the best place with the least amount of intrusion to your life during the implementation.