

Permapeople Open Data Day 2021

March 6, 2021 - 8pm CET /
2pm EST / 11am PDT

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#ODD 21

Agenda

Intro

The project

Open data @ Permapeople

Open discussion

Permapeople Team



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Beyond sustainability

“The greatest change we need to make is from consumption to **production**, even if on a small scale, in our own gardens. If only 10% of us do this, there is enough for everyone.”

Bill Mollison

What is permaculture?

Permanent agriculture ➡ permanent culture

The ideas have been around forever. Since human civilization existed. Essentially it's a way of seeing the *whole system* -- and seeing yourself as a part of it.

Wikipedia describes it as...

Permaculture is an approach to land management and philosophy that adopts arrangements observed in flourishing natural ecosystems. It includes a set of design principles derived using whole systems thinking. It uses these principles in fields such as regenerative agriculture, rewilding, and community resilience.

If you're interested...

Now that we've got the official definitions out of the way - feel free to ask for further reading if you need!

Learn more...

- Joseph Russell Smith
- P. A. Yeomans
- Sepp Holzer
- Bill Mollison
- David Holmgren
- Masanobu Fukuoka
- Peter Bane
- Ruth Stout
- Dr. Elaine Ingham
- Toby Hemenway
- Geoff Lawton
- Ben Falk
- Ken Mudge
- Stefan Sobkowiak of Miracle Farms
- Sean of Edible Acres
- JM Fortier of La Ferme des Quatre-Temps

Please look up these people if you want to learn more!

Mission

- Facilitate localized production through regenerative action
- Grow food
- Help others grow food
- Share surplus (data/food/knowledge)



[Image source: <https://giphy.com/gifs/bobs-burgers-fox-bobs-burgers-tv-3o72F19RJozHwoU8Ra>]

To use our experience, passion, and tech expertise to spark an ecological-regenerative-permaculture-inspired-gardening-and-small-scale-farming-and-localized-post-capitalist-goods-production-revolution

Solving the knowledge problem

- Anecdotal
- Scattered and disorganized
- Dominated by a monoculture

Anecdotal

- Info on holistic/regenerative gardening is often anecdotal, as there isn't a whole lot of funding for research in these systems. Most of the funding comes through big-ag which has become increasingly reliant on heavy inputs. One of the main problems we see here is lack of support. We aim to provide and share/cite the research that *does* exist behind these methods.

Scattered and disorganized

- Info on holistic/regenerative practices is widely scattered and is rarely systematized. We've brought together a number of sources to make this project happen. From existing plant-databases and wikipedia, to cherry-picking sources from dozens of seed company websites. Additionally, there are dozens of hard-to-find, or out-of-print books just full of brilliant information - soon to be lost to the digital age. We're even investigating availability of rights on some of these tomes of traditional knowledge.

Dominated by a monoculture

- It's no secret that most food production (and permaculture/regenerative ag) is dominated by anglophone, white, Western perspectives. Food is one of the most volatile systems in the world, and yet we leave it in the hands of a few money-hungry giants, bent on increasing inputs, while discouraging open pollination and ancient varieties of fruits and vegetables. How can we address the food system without addressing the monoculture behind it? We're not sure how to get here yet, but maybe we should be elevating some of the less-represented voices in the regenerative ag movement.

Research, grow, harvest, trade surplus, share knowledge, repeat.

sharing knowledge, direct distribution - trading products (marktplatz), garden planner, knowledge gathering

hard facts, scientifically grounded knowledge on planting, permaculture

systematic and concentrated knowledge

applicable knowledge on planting

open access and empowerment of marginalized groups and their knowledge

- ✓ Companion planting
- ✓ Guild design
- ✓ planning and monitoring tools
- ✓ connecting with other permaculturists (seed saving, securing biodiversity, cause)
- ✓ circular economy!

Goals

- free information and tools
- regenerative action:
grow more food!
- post-capitalism



Open source info

Through open-source information and tools, we can empower *anyone* who has the interest and means to grow something.

Regenerative action

what we mean by regenerative is the agenda to go beyond sustainability as sustaining only means to keep a broken system running. The regenerative movement takes an active stance, aiming at fixing our soils, food, nature and ultimately our communities and the planet as a whole.

Post capitalism

We're not here to argue the merits of a governing system. We believe that we can work within the system to regenerate wealth and power through hyper-localized natural goods production. Share and trade surplus with your neighbours, trade seeds, plant public food, reconnect and build a flourishing community.

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Plant databaseMarketplaceResources

QLog inSign up

Add a new plant

Filters -

Edible parts

[Leaves \(1270\)](#)[Fruit \(985\)](#)[Seed \(665\)](#)[Root \(546\)](#)[Flowers \(266\)](#)[Stem \(169\)](#)[Bulb \(85\)](#)[Seedpod \(68\)](#)[Inner bark \(49\)](#)[Shoots \(45\)](#)[Sap \(30\)](#)[Pollen \(13\)](#)[Nectar \(11\)](#)[Corm \(11\)](#)[not specified \(1214\)](#)

Utility

[Hedgerow \(19\)](#)[Attracts insects \(13\)](#)[Wind breaker \(13\)](#)[Animal feed \(8\)](#)[Poultry forage \(5\)](#)[ground cover \(3\)](#)[N-fixers \(3\)](#)

Plant index
















bean

Active filters:
search term : bean

12345...Last »

Displaying plants 1 - 20 of 4077 in total

Sort by:
Best result

Image	Name	Scientific name	Actions
	Winged Bean	<i>Psophocarpus tetragonolobus</i>	 
	Tick Bean	<i>Vicia faba minuta</i>	 
	Thicket Bean Wild bean	<i>Phaseolus polystachios</i>	 
	Sarawak Bean	<i>Vigna hosei</i>	 
	Hyacinth Bean	<i>Lablab purpureus</i>	  <div>Send</div>

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basic functions: the core of the project is the plant database with currently more than 8,500 plant entries. On our landing page you can basically type in any plant term you are looking for, including latin, English or German names. Anyone can use the search functions of the plant database. You do not have to sign up or make an account for it. If you do not find the plant you are looking for you can also add your entry. If you want to contribute your knowledge to the database you will have to sign up to make changes or contributions.

Characteristics

Edible parts
Leaves, Seed

Utility
nitrogen-fixer

USDA Hardiness zone [Help](#)
4-8

Life cycle
Annual

Light requirement
full sun, partial sun/shade

Water requirement
Moist

Soil type
light (sandy), medium, heavy (clay)

Propagation method
seed - direct sow, seed - transplant

When to plant (outdoors)
6 weeks after sowing them in pots

Broad Bean

Vicia faba



4-8

Life cycle

Light requirement

Water requirement

USDA Hardiness zone

Life cycle

Light requirement

Water requirement

0

0

4

0

0

+ Add to list...

Plants For A Future
[https://pfaf.org/User/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Vicia faba major](https://pfaf.org/User/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Vicia%20faba%20major)

Onion
Allium cepa

 **Broccoli**
Brassica oleracea italica

Send feed

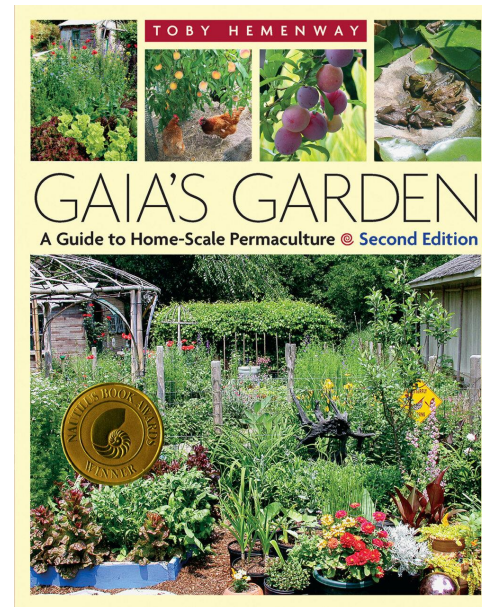
Open data @ Permapeople



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The story how I started
no idea from permaculture or any other ecological or regenerative methods
see here: <https://permapeople.org/blog/2020/10/05/why-i-am-building-permapeople-org.html>



[Image source <https://www.chelseagreen.com/product/gaias-garden/>]

I started watching youtube videos on gardening and one youtuber recommended this book, so I bought it

obvious ideas like soil gets never tilled in nature

our garden has poor soil


scattered info - there are a lot of resources outside, hard to find, hard to search
ermaculture information (guild, companion planting, layers, multi uses) you end up random googling

no tilling

It has a great list of plants at the end
I couldn't find the table digitally, so I typed it all down into a spreadsheet
and then I had the idea to turn this into a database for everyone

and why I thought having a open collaboration database is a good idea





	Poncirus irroliata	bitter orange	[2] Trees	Prefers full sun	[Tr] Tree	[E] Evergreen	[Fr] Fruit	[Med] Medicinal	[Hab] Habitat	
112	Potentilla fruticosa	Cinquefoil	[3] Shrubs	Prefers full sun	Tol	[Sh] Shrub	[D] Deciduous	Tea	[Wbr] Wind breaker	[Hr] Hedgerow
113	Prunus armeniaca	Apricot	[2] Trees	Prefers full sun		[Tr] Tree	[D] Deciduous	[Fr] Fruit	[Ins] Attracts insects	[Hab] Habitat
114	Prunus avium	Mazzard cherry	[2] Trees	Prefers full sun		[Tr] Tree	[D] Deciduous	[Fr] Fruit	[Ins] Attracts insects	[Hab] Habitat
115	Prunus caroliniana	Laurel cherry	[2] Trees	Prefers full sun	Pre	[Tr] Tree	[E] Evergreen	[Fr] Fruit	[Ins] Attracts insects	[Hab] Habitat
116	Prunus cerasifera	Cherry plum	[2] Trees	Prefers full sun		[Tr] Tree	[D] Deciduous	[Fr] Fruit	[Ins] Attracts insects	[Hab] Habitat
117	Prunus domestica	Plum	[2] Trees	Prefers full sun		[D] Deciduous	[Tr] Tree	[Fr] Fruit	[Hab] Habitat	[For] Animal feed
118	Prunus dulcis	Almond	[2] Trees	Prefers full sun		[D] Deciduous	[Tr] Tree	[Sd] Seed	[Ins] Attracts insects	[For] Animal feed
119	Prunus incisa	Fuji cherry	[2] Trees	Prefers full sun		[D] Deciduous	[Tr] Tree	[Fr] Fruit	[For] Animal feed	[Hab] Habitat
120	Prunus insititia	Damson	[2] Trees	Prefers full sun		[D] Deciduous	[Tr] Tree	[Fr] Fruit	[Med] Medicinal	[For] Animal feed
121	Prunus laurocerasus	English laurel	[2] Trees	Prefers full sun	Pre	[E] Evergreen	[Tr] Tree	[Fr] Fruit	[For] Animal feed	[Hab] Habitat
122	Prunus lusitanica	Portugese laurel	[2] Trees	Prefers full sun	Pre	[E] Evergreen	[Tr] Tree	[For] Animal feed	[Hab] Habitat	[Ins] Attracts insects
123	Prunus persica	Peach / Nectarine	[2] Trees	Prefers full sun		[D] Deciduous	[Tr] Tree	[Fr] Fruit	[For] Animal feed	[Hab] Habitat
124	Prunus spinosa	Sloe	[2] Trees	Prefers full sun		[D] Deciduous	[Tr] Tree	[Fr] Fruit	[Med] Medicinal	[Hab] Habitat
125	Prunus tomentosa	Nanking cherry	[3] Shrubs	Prefers full sun		[D] Deciduous	[Sh] Shrub	[Fr] Fruit	[Hab] Habitat	[For] Animal feed
126	Pseudosasa japonica	Bamboo	[3] Shrubs	Prefers full sun	Tol	[E] Evergreen	[Sh] Shrub	[Sht] shoot	[Med] Medicinal	[For] Animal feed
127	Rhamnus californica	California coffeeberry	[2] Trees	Prefers full sun	Tol	[D] Deciduous	[Tr] Tree	[Fr] Fruit	[Med] Medicinal	[Hab] Habitat
128	Rhamnus caroliniana	Indian cherry	[2] Trees	Prefers full sun	Tol	[D] Deciduous	[Tr] Tree	[Fr] Fruit	[Chk] Poultry forage	[For] Animal feed
129	Rhamnus purshiana	Cascara	[2] Trees	Prefers full sun		[D] Deciduous	[Tr] Tree	[Med] Medicinal	[Ins] Attracts insects	[Hab] Habitat
130	Rhus integrifolia	Lemonade berry	[3] Shrubs	Prefers full sun	Tol	[D] Deciduous	[Sh] Shrub	[Fr] Fruit	[Fl] Flower	[Ins] Attracts insects
131	Rhus typhina	Staghorn sumac	[3] Shrubs	Prefers full sun		[D] Deciduous	[Sh] Shrub	[Fr] Fruit	[Hab] Habitat	[Hr] Hedgerow



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Database info: 100

Database Name: Plants For A Future

Owner: PermaPeople

URL: https://pfaf.org

Version: 1.0

Created: 2010-01-01

Updated: 2010-01-01

License: CC BY-NC-SA

Copyright: © 2010 PermaPeople

Privacy Policy: https://pfaf.org/privacy-policy

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Plant Uses: https://pfaf.org/plant-uses

How to: https://pfaf.org/how-to

Before You Start: https://pfaf.org/before-you-start

Bibliography: https://pfaf.org/bibliography

Help Videos: https://pfaf.org/help-videos



7000+ Plant Pages

Hardiness zones, Care, Hazards, Physical Characteristics, Synonyms, Habitats, Edible Uses, Medicinal Uses, Other Uses, Cultivation Details, Propagation and more...


How toFAQsDesign TipsBefore You StartBibliographyHelp Videos


Database Plant Search Page:

Edible, Medicinal and other uses of over 7,000 plants

Search for name:

Common or botanical Name or Family. If you are unsure of the spelling of a plant or would like a more detailed website search, please use the search box at the top of the page.

Sorted by:  Alphabetically Latin names & Common names Family Habitats

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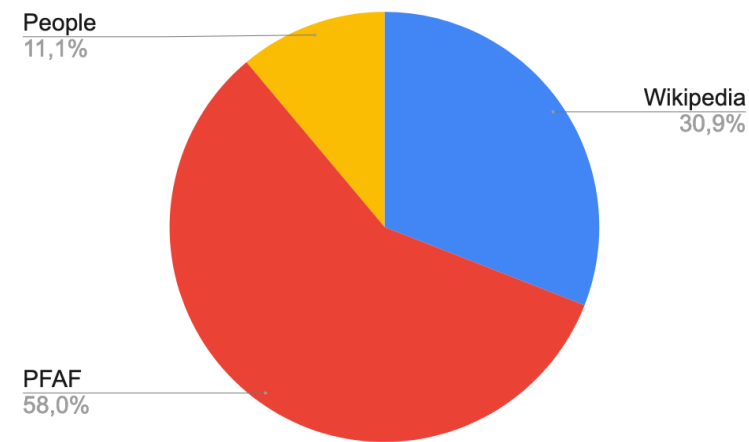
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[Image source: Own screenshot of <https://pfaf.org/user/Default.aspx>]

Plants for A Future as the best and closest plant database available with a free license.

Distribution by data source



Where the data actually is coming from we are using right now.

We want the 10% to grow more but we need contributors like you for that!

We want to give the current 10% back to all the other platforms!

Our database in numbers (March 2021)

21 contributors

8513 plants

4722 images

31714 edits (including automated edits)

Challenges

Challenges we discovered and how we think about it.

Disclaimer: Most of the things are also work-in-progress for us.

License? What license?



🌱👉 permapeople

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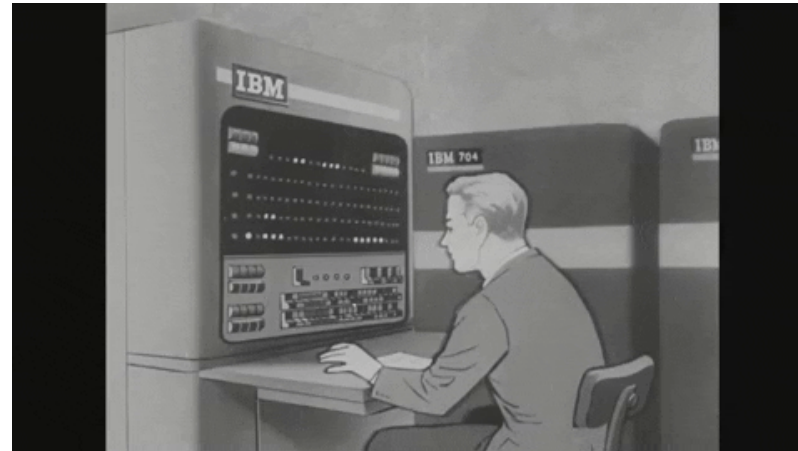
[Image source: <https://giphy.com/gifs/quentin-tarantino-pulp-fiction-vincent-vega-3o7aTskHEUdgCQAXde>]

- not even in a commercial setting
- not even after you bought access

Solution: we save all sources of edits. Later we want to make it visible which data piece is licensed in what way because plant profiles can consist of many different sources.

Also: Educating our users and make them aware of licensing etc.

Programmer needed



[Image source: <https://giphy.com/gifs/usnationalarchives-vintage-computer-3ov9jNziFTMfzSumAw>]

Use APIs

while many pages have a license, they do not offer any way to use that data
fallback to scraping is the worst possible way (but still better than no license!)

solutions:

provide export formats for the whole data set and individual entries.

What license for data?

Creative
Commons



Open
Database
License

[Image source: <https://devopsreactions.tumblr.com/post/36945505231/the-moment-you-have-to-pick-between-puppet-and>]

- not clear when use is commercial
- CC for hard facts is problematic (example OSM moved to ODBL)
- licenses are not compatible

Creative Commons bases its licences on copyright. But facts like plant names or similar cannot be copyrighted. It gets legal talk pretty quickly but "minimal degree of creativity" and other things are important.

Opportunities

~~Imitation~~ Copying is the
sincerest form of flattery.

- me

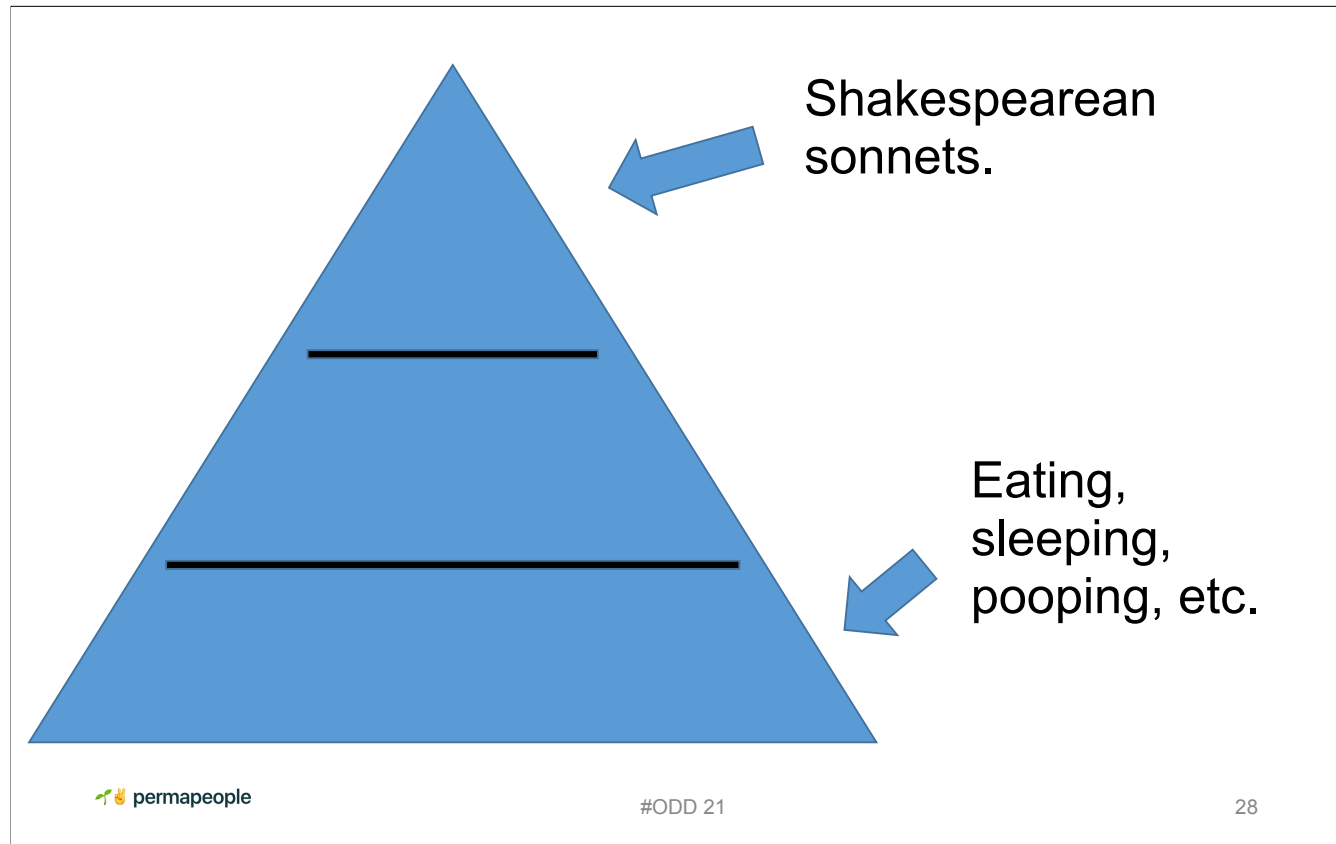
- the same as we copied the data from PFAF/wiki, we want to give back what we created
- = true sense of sharing!
- even better: data mashups: Like we combined different data sources for our needs, we hope that others use our dataset to create solutions on their own.

User Generated Data



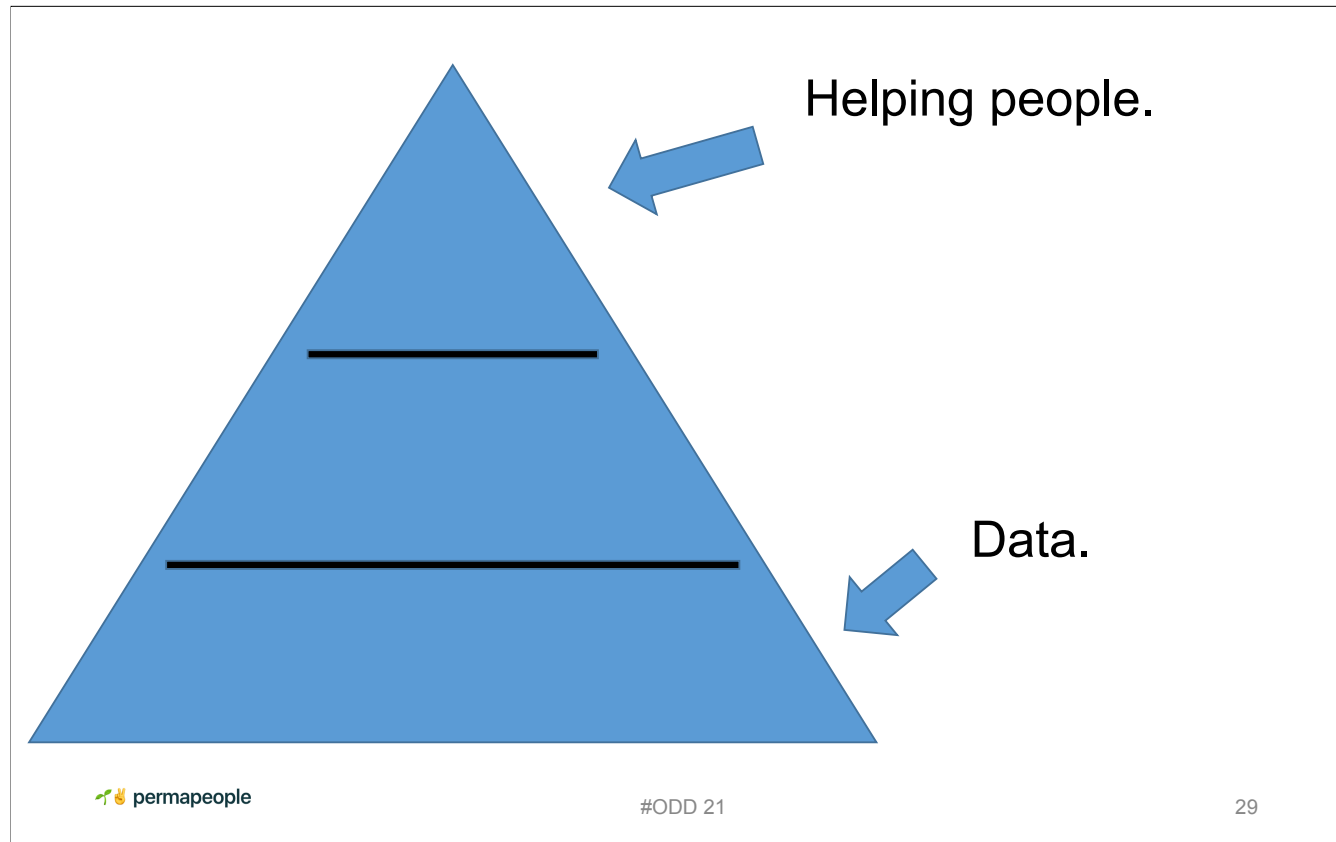
[Image source: <https://giphy.com/gifs/CzbiCJTYOzHTW>]

- garden log as an example
- people use our tool and generate data with it, which we can use to synthesize data back to the database
- example: if everyone logs the time of seed and harvest, we can “extract” that data into the database as “days to harvest”
- important: we need people’s consent!



[Idea stolen from <http://boringtechnology.club/#13>]

Maslow's hierarchy, briefly, is the idea that you have to satisfy your more basic needs before higher levels of intellectual fulfillment are possible. You can't do poetry if you're worried about what you're going to eat today.



If we look at data and how we use it, we can look at it like this.

While you need data, a lot of it and in the best case open licensed, it is actually not what's helping.

Using that data to help people solve their problems, is what you're looking for.

This means making it possible to put that data to work, by making it accessible for people to work with that data to solve their problems or whatever it is they are looking for.
This means building solutions on top of that data.

For us we figured out pretty early on that providing the data is only the start. We spend a lot of time on other features like the search, lists, how to input and organize the data.

	Data Gardening
	Gardening

#ODD 2130

[Image source: <https://en.meming.world/wiki/Drakeposting>]

What I am trying to say: This is more like a general critique. Data is not the important part, it's the things you want to do with it.

Gardening is fun but data gardening is boring as hell.

Not everyone needs to research everything again and again and instead focus on the problems we want to solve

Instead of random googling over and over again, just use one source. Imagine a world without wikipedia!

We want to do gardening and growing food and I am sure you want to solve other problems with data

What's next for open data

- Public API
- Database export
- Fine grained licensing info
- make it easy to link and cite



[Image source: <https://gifer.com/en/DU2L>]

- in different formats (HTML, XML, JSON, CSV, ???)
- export your lists and searches too
- Licenses are shown for every source and edit and how a plant profile is assembled from all these sources



THANK YOU!

How you can help: Plant something, Start composting, Share your surplus with neighbours, foster your community, plant things for wildlife, diversify your surroundings, share Permapeople with one person, contribute to Permapeople

Discussion time!

- Any ideas on how we can all work together to facilitate an **ecological-regenerative-permanent-culture-inspired-gardening-and-small-scale-farming-and-localized-post-capitalist-goods-production-revolution**
- How can we get more people growing food?
- How can we get more people growing utilitarian things?
- How can we build community?
- How can we empower each other?
- How can we empower unheard voices?

Let's plant the future