

Using earthbanks and islands in and around water provide many edges (niches) for plants, animals, and people. Illustration: Mollison & Slay, 1991, *Introduction to Permaculture*, p.27, fig.1.11

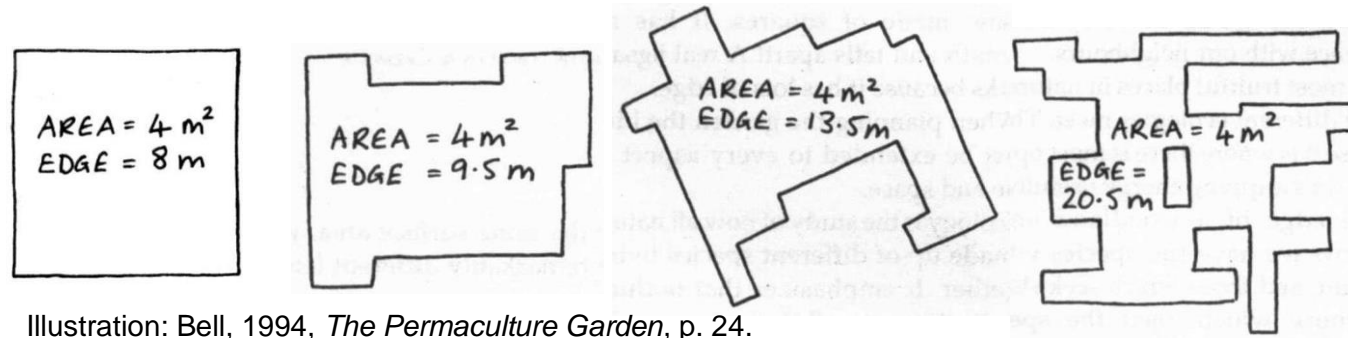
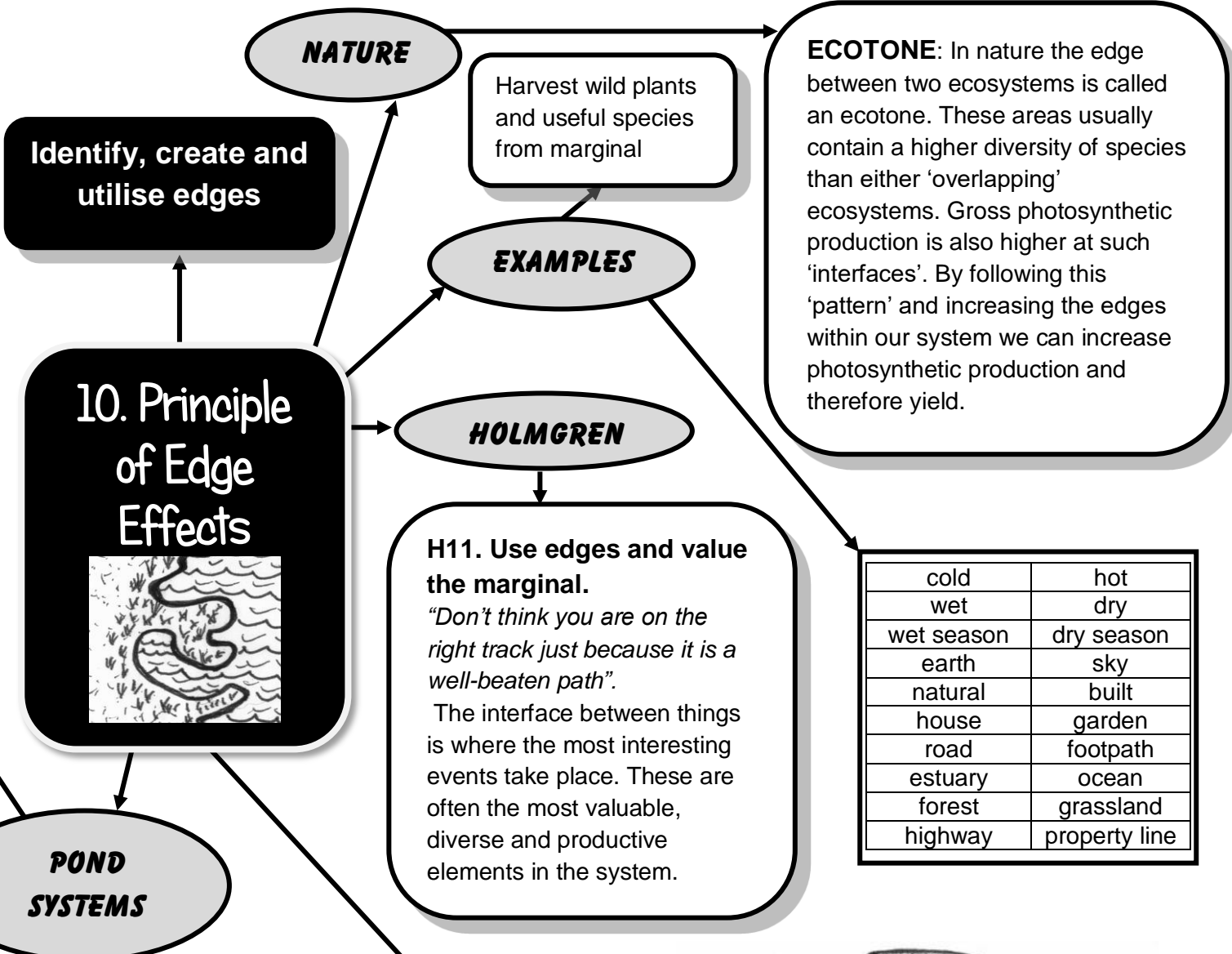


Illustration: Bell, 1994, *The Permaculture Garden*, p. 24.



**ECOTONE:** In nature the edge between two ecosystems is called an ecotone. These areas usually contain a higher diversity of species than either 'overlapping' ecosystems. Gross photosynthetic production is also higher at such 'interfaces'. By following this 'pattern' and increasing the edges within our system we can increase photosynthetic production and therefore yield.

Harvest wild plants and useful species from marginal

**H11. Use edges and value the marginal.**  
*"Don't think you are on the right track just because it is a well-beaten path".*  
 The interface between things is where the most interesting events take place. These are often the most valuable, diverse and productive elements in the system.

cold	hot
wet	dry
wet season	dry season
earth	sky
natural	built
house	garden
road	footpath
estuary	ocean
forest	grassland
highway	property line

**HERB SPIRAL**

A spiral is a useful pattern as the amount of edge and growing space increases as the garden bed climbs higher. To construct dump a pile of soil on the ground 2 to 3 metres across, then using rocks construct your spiral. Plant deep rooted herbs on top (or a dwarf lemon tree) and shallow rooted lower; plant sun loving herbs on the sunny side and shade loving ones in the shade.

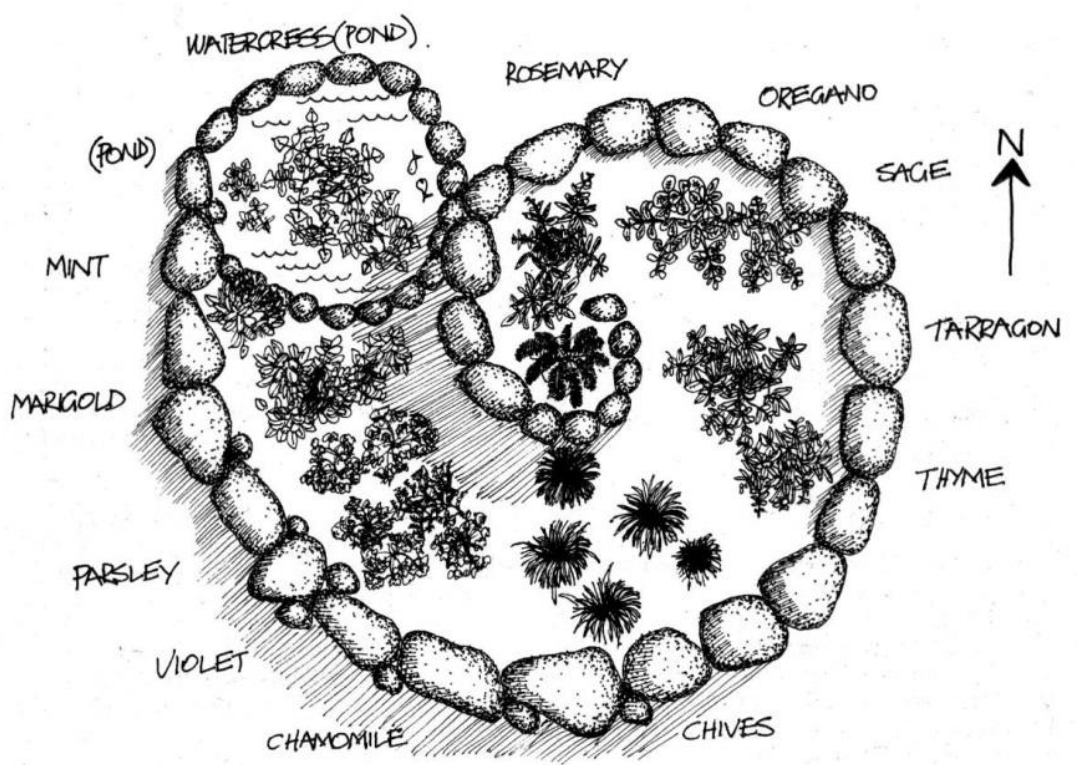
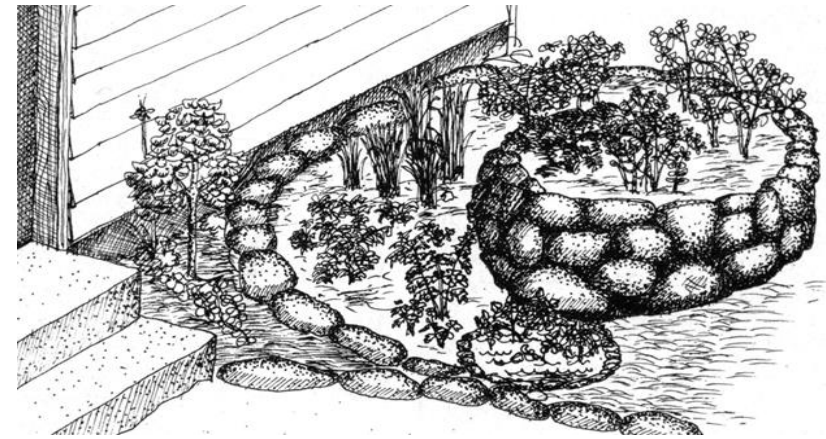
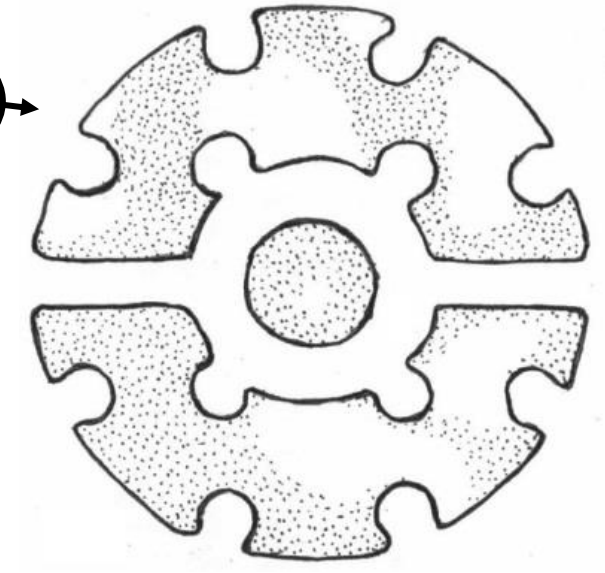


Illustration: Mollison, 1979, *Permaculture Two*, p.11, fig.2.1

**IN THE GARDEN**



**MANDALA GARDENS**

Mandala gardens have a greater edge than rectangular beds. They are constructed by 'joining' keyhole beds together. Illustration: Mars. 2007, *The Basics of Permaculture Design*, p.132, fig.12.4