

## **Food Forests - Building Edible Community and Home Landscapes**

There is a growing interest in creating perennial edible landscapes for families and communities. People are familiar with community gardens, but have you heard of community food forests? A food forest combines trees, shrubs, vines, perennials and self-seeding annuals to produce vegetables, fruits and nuts. These plantings provide healthy foods while protecting soil and water resources and adding carbon to underutilized properties. Food forests can address the need for urban food security, resilient communities and productive public lands. Food forests are established almost anywhere but are commonly found in community green spaces and riparian areas. These plantings can also be designed for home landscapes. This presentation will discuss what a food forest is, examples of food forests, layout design, plants producing edible fruits and nuts and resources to find more information. Learn more about Food Forests, edible landscapes and how you can be involved or educate others in your community.



### **Gary Wyatt**

Gary Wyatt is an Agroforestry Extension Educator and Extension Professor with the University of Minnesota Extension in the Extension Regional Office in Mankato, MN. Gary promotes sustainable Agroforestry practices that are economical and protect our soil, water, wildlife and natural resources. Current issues include: Silvopasture, living snow fences, invasive species, windbreaks, riparian buffers, forest farming, bio-energy crops (willows & poplars), eco-system services, tree and shrub selection, community & school food forests, edible and decorative woody plants and non-timber forest products. Gary has more than 38 years of Extension experience in Minnesota.