

Pest Management Steps:

We walk the site most days and check leaves and soil for any disruption. We were once GAP Certified and have been through many of these processes. We belong to groups such as Forest Keepers and Forest ReLeaf to monitor tree health. We are members of Beekeeping Associations and Missourians for Monarchs. All of these organizations help us to identify any current threats.

We use organic and permaculture growing methods, companion planting and have studied with the Biodynamic Association. We are SARE grant recipients and Slow Food National Committee members.

Our site selection prevents drift. At the highest elevation of the Town of Augusta, on a corner, and away from any drift or runoff, and with low automobile traffic, there is the perfect amount of light and breeze. Our plantings are 20 feet from the property line and that protects plants from humans and animals. There have dense wooded alleys and corridors for wildlife travel, garlic planted under fruit trees and rose bushes, and wild elderberry corners along with other native edibles creating windbreaks.

Our planting strategy of companions and room for air flow and circulation creates a healthy environment. Herbs are drought resistant, low maintenance, create good ground cover, food, and ward off many pests. We create our own compost, raise chickens, and only bring in outside inputs from OMRI certified sustainable providers with excellent reputations for healthy mulch. We have a professional mulching device that connects to our tractor to ensure that we have a supply of mulch from our own trees without contamination of chemicals.

Missouri is hot and humid. Plant diseases are common if plants are crowded. Growing lavender is a good indication of our soil health. Too wet or too much crowding will cause lavender to show signs of distress very quickly. Aromatic herbs keep most of the wildlife within the wooded area.