



THE BACKYARD GARDEN BLUEPRINT
Session 3: Soil Health and Cultivation

OVERVIEW:

1. Six soil health principles (Part 2)
2. Managing weeds with no-till
3. Transitioning from one crop to another in a No-Till system



SIX SOIL HEALTH PRINCIPLES

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small, young green plant seedling over a patch of dark, rich soil. The soil is covered with small twigs and organic matter. The hand is positioned in the upper right quadrant, with fingers gently cupping the seedling. The seedling has two small green leaves and a reddish-brown stem. The background is a soft-focus view of the soil and some other small plants.

1: MINIMAL DISTURBANCE

A close-up photograph of a young green plant with lobed leaves growing in a garden bed. The plant is the central focus, with its vibrant green leaves contrasting against the brown, textured mulch. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the garden bed and some other plants. A dark, semi-transparent banner is overlaid at the bottom of the image, containing the text '2: ARMOR (MULCH)' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

2: ARMOR (MULCH)



3: DIVERSITY



A close-up photograph of several layers of vibrant green leafy vegetables, likely chard or spinach, showing detailed vein patterns. The leaves are slightly wet, with small droplets of water visible. A dark, semi-transparent horizontal bar is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing white text.

4: LIVING ROOTS IN THE SOIL



5: ANIMALS



6: CONTEXT



6: CONTEXT

1. Environment - what you are “given”
 1. Latitude (daylight hours)
 2. Seasonal patterns
 3. Temperature patterns (USDA plant hardiness zone)
 4. Wind patterns (prevailing winds, weather)
 5. Rainfall (overall and dispersal through the year)
 6. Natural flora and fauna
 7. The “lay” of the land (orientation, slope, drainage)
 8. Soil type, composition



6: CONTEXT

1. Resources - what you “have”
 1. Economic - capital, income sources and amounts, markets, access to markets
 2. Physical - tools, equipment, infrastructure



6: CONTEXT

1. Community

1. Family
2. Neighbors
3. Social groupings (church, social clubs, work/business associates & associations, political affiliations)
4. Government (city, county, state, nation)



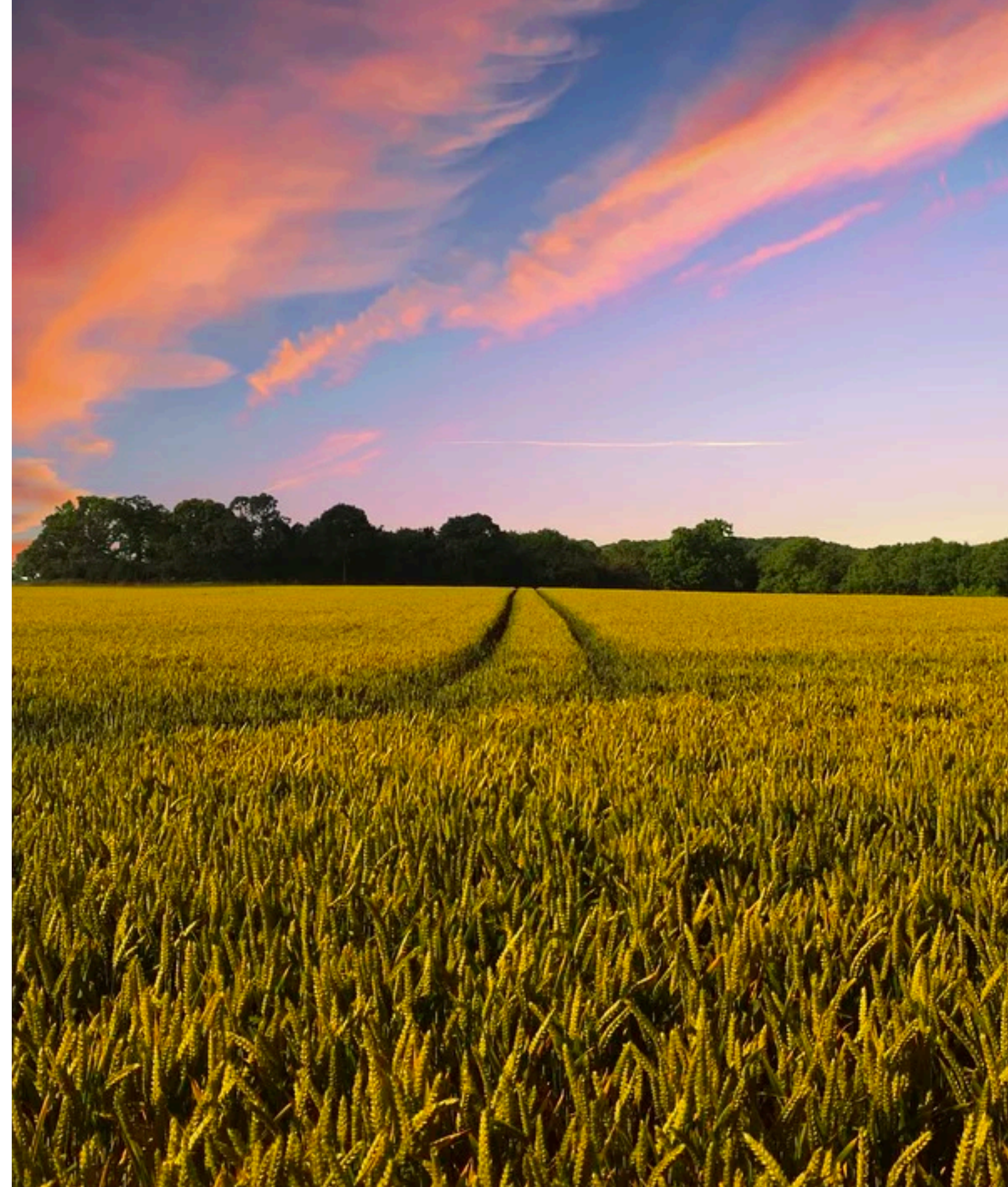
6: CONTEXT

1. Spiritual/Philosophical - Your Worldview
 1. Faith in the Creator
 2. Faith in the creation (how He created it to be and function).
 3. Informs our worldview and colors how we see all things



6: CONTEXT

1. Good decision making requires a good understanding of our context.
2. The context will be different for each and every person, home, garden or farm.





MANAGING WEEDS WITH NO-TILL

MANAGING WEEDS

1. Keeping the ground covered will reduce weed growth significantly
 1. Space crops so that full coverage is achieved
 2. Cover crops are also often “smother” crops
 3. Using mulch



MANAGING WEEDS

1. Hay/straw
2. Woodchips
3. Crop residue
4. Compost



MANAGING WEEDS

1. Weeds will need to be managed in beds that have a compost mulch
2. Favorite cultivation tools:
 1. Stirrup hoe
 2. Colinear hoe
 3. Wheel hoe



SOIL HEALTH RESOURCES

Some of the slides in this presentation were not available for public distribution and have been removed. For more information on soil health we highly recommend the following resources:

<https://understandingag.com>

<https://soilhealthacademy.org>

CLASS HANDOUTS

borntogrow.net/adagra