

Shani Abromowitz
SOS: E4E Edible Landscaping
Winter, 2016
Mid-Quarter Self Eval

For the winter quarter of 2016 I'm taking the Commodification Processes and Alternatives SOS class. While my faculty Sarah Williams has designed the course to explore the specific subject of various forms of commodification, I have taken this course to follow the Enterprise for Equity (E4E) curriculum. The end goal is to develop a strong Edible Landscaping business, reinforced by the teachings of the business coaches in E4E and supported by peer reviewed articles I've chosen to read and analyze for the proper application to my business, which count for 8 upper division credits, as assessed by Steve S. My readings for this quarter were: Urban Soils: Applications and Practices by Craul, Phillip J, The Bio-Integrated Farm: A Revolutionary Permaculture-Based System Using Greenhouses, Ponds, Compost Piles, Aquaponics, Chickens, and More by Shawn Jadrnicek and Stephanie Jadrnicek, The Vertical Farm by Dr. Dickson Despommier, Smart Permaculture Design Book by Jenny Allen, Edible Landscaping by Rosalind Creasy, and Tree-Crop Interactions by Ong and Huxley et. al., as well as many many peer-reviewed, upper division articles

I've enjoyed the Enterprise for Equity portion. They provide a thorough step by step in business develop and useful methods of research to better understand the market. For my Edible Landscaping business E4E has helped me determine my market, services, and payrate. They've emphasized fair pay for the owner (myself), and allocation of funds towards taxes. They insist on 35 hour work weeks and teach us to integrate recuperation time into the business, so as not to experience a worker burn-out. They emphasise the triple bottom line: Planet, people, and profit. That's my list of priorities and it's incredibly liberating to incorporate my priorities into my business. They

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also emphasize the sweet spot where what you love to do, what you're good at, and what the market wants meets.

I've been reading some peer-reviewed articles and integrating bits of information which apply to my business. My main focuses have been harmful chemicals found in the soils, climate change, and tree-crop interaction. Toxins can bioaccumulate in plants and magnify up the trophic levels into humans. I've been looking at the list of phytoaccumulators and what chemicals accumulate where, as well as mitigation techniques. I've also been preparing a quick-reference plant chart sheet so I can decide which plants are suitable for which purposes/locations. In looking at climate change I'm focusing on what the future holds for temperatures, water resources, and weather, as well as the migration of plants so as to choose and plan plant successions that will cohesively blend from one to the other.

As the quarter has progressed I've found my participation in class activities not living up to expectations mentioned in my contract. I am very grateful that Sarah has been flexible in what I'd like to focus on and willing assess my work on its merit vs its application towards the class focus.

This quarter flows smoothly into spring 2017, where I intend to continue Sarah's SOS, focusing on getting credit for doing my Edible Landscaping business. Martha Rosemeyer has agreed to reviewing my Upper Division work where I experiment with a Kale and Lettuce intercrop and clover undersow. Additional upper division work will take place as I am doing soil analyses for my clients' landscapes. I've followed a lead on a potential client and already have 1 billable hour under my belt as an Edible Landscaper.

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I'm very excited at how this quarter has shaped up and am looking forward to the following quarters and graduation.