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***Scale of Permanence Checklist***Adapted from P.A. Yeomans   
Edited by   
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1. **Climate**

* latitude
* plant hardiness zone
* annual precipitation: monthly distribution
* wind directions: prevailing, seasonal variations, storm surges
* average frost-free days: first and last frosts
* for fruit and nut production
  + - growing degree days (important for ripening nuts)
    - chilling hours (important for fruit tree dormancy)
    - heating/cooling degree days
* extreme weather potential: drought, ﬂood, hurricane, tornado, ﬁre
* predicted future climate change
* resource flows: sand, rock, straw, clay, wood, woodchips, people
* government oversite: codes, restrictions, supportive or not,

**2. Land and Landform**

* elevation
* slope (steepness, rise/run in percent): landslide potential
* topographic position (i.e., mid-slope, hill crest, valley ﬂoor, etc.)
* geological and soil profile: bedrock, clay, stability, water permeability
* seasonal high-water table?
* soil
  + - management history
    - type: sand-silt-clay%, proﬁle, drainage
    - fertility: soil test, pH, OM
    - biological life: smell, worms, structure, water holding capacity
    - possible soil toxins?: lead, mercury, cadmium, asbestos, etc..

**3. Water**

* what are existing sources of supply: location, quantity, quality, dependability & sustainability
* network layout and features (spigots, pipes, ﬁlters, etc.)
* location of all on-site and nearby off-site culverts, wells, water lines, sewage lines,
* septic systems, old wells, etc.
* watershed boundaries and ﬂow patterns:
* where does water concentration and disperse (wet and dry areas)
* roof runoff patterns, gutters & downspouts
* quality of rainwater flowing on to property: road runoff, chemical runoff from neighbors, etc.
* identify sources of cleanest water: location, quantity, quality, dependability, sustainability & cost to develop
* erosion: existing and potential areas
* would property benefit most from holding water or moving it along

**4. Access/Circulation**

* roads/paths best on contour or on ridges
* activity nodes, storage areas
* pedestrian, cart and vehicle access points, current & potential patterns
* materials ﬂows: mulch, compost, produce, ﬁrewood, laundry, etc.

**5. Vegetation and Wildlife**

* existing plant species: locations, sizes, quantities, patterns, uses, toxicity, invasiveness, weediness, what they indicate about site conditions, etc.
* ecosystem architecture: layers and their density, patterning and diversity, resultant habitat conditions, light/shade, character, quality
* habitat types, food/water/shelter availability

**6. Microclimate**

* deﬁne various microclimate spaces
* slope aspects (direction slopes face relative to sun)
* sun/shade patterns
* cold air drainage and frost pockets
* soil moisture patterns
* precipitation patterns
* local wind patterns

**7. Buildings and Infrastructure**

* building size, shape, locations doors and windows, exist. and possible functions
* permanent pavement and snow piles from plowing it
* power lines (above and below ground) and electric outlets
* outdoor water faucet, septic system, well locations
* location of underground pipes: water and sewer line, footing drain, ﬂoor drain and down spout drain lines, tile drains, culverts, other
* fences and gateways

**8. Zones of Use**

* property lines, easements, rights-of-way
* existing zones of land and water use
* well protection zones, environmental and other legal limits (e.g. wetlands regulations, zoning regulations, building setbacks)
* current uses by neighbors and passersby
* use history and impacts on land, current or future uses

**9. Soil Fertility and Management**

* soil types: texture, structure, consistence, proﬁle & drainage
* topsoil fertility: pH, % OM, N, P, K, Ca
* soil toxins: lead, mercury, cadmium, asbestos, etc..
* management history
* soil testing: where to get it done, how to do it

**10. Aesthetics/Experience of Place**

* outdoor rooms, walls: deﬁne spaces (walls, ceilings, ﬂoors), qualities, feelings, functions & features
* arrival and entry experience: sequencing, spaces, eye movements & feelings