

50+ Digital Tools & Apps for Permaculture Designers

compiled by Heather Jo Flores, for the #freepermaculture project

	Free?	Upgrade	MacOSx	iOS	Windows	Android	Website	Comments
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CREATIVITY & INSPIRATION

Whack pack		\$2		✓				Silly, provocative, inspiring app based on the classic book.
Ananda	✓	\$3		✓				Worth the upgrade. Amazing app.
Systems Thinking	✓	-					✓	A selection of mental tools from Donella Meadows.
Oblique Strategies	✓	\$2		✓		✓	✓	Brian Eno's card set for creative exploration.
Brainsparker	✓	\$3		✓		✓		Bunches of ideas, curiosities, and writing prompts.

BRAINSTORMING & WORKFLOW

Cardflow	✓	\$15	✓	✓				Index card app with multiple capabilities.
Mindly	✓	\$7	✓	✓				Mind-mapping with a variety of useful export options.
Treenity	✓	-		✓				Mind-mapping with Reminders app integration!
Trello	✓	monthly		✓		✓	✓	Free version is ample for organizing huge projects.
Asana	✓	monthly		✓		✓	✓	Free version is ample, simple and clean interface.
Pyrus	✓	monthly		✓		✓	✓	Offers unique task-based workflow. Free is ample.

FIELD NOTES & DATA COLLECTION

Google Keep	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Seamless syncing to all devices, integrates with G-suite.
Zoho Notebook	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓		Excellent free app for any device has multiple capabilities.
GoodNotes		\$6	✓	✓				Great for making scrapbooks with notes and images.
Otter Voice notes	✓	monthly		✓		✓	✓	Essential app transcribes voice notes, meetings, videos, etc.
Reverse Image Search	✓	\$2		✓			✓	Excellent for identifying plants and insects.
Google Sheets & Forms	✓	-					✓	Collect, organize, and analyze all kinds of information.
Annotable		\$10		✓				Great for noting design ideas, microclimates, plants

MAPPING & SURVEYING

Google Earth	✓	-		✓		✓	✓	Get overhead and 3D images of any site.
Google Maps Distance Calc	✓	-					✓	Measure distances on google maps.
Contour Map Creator	✓		✓		✓		✓	Autogenerates complex maps.
Pocket Earth Pro	✓	\$5		✓				Offline access to street and topo maps.
Footpath	✓	monthly		✓				Map a path or boundary and measure the distance.
Screen Ruler	✓	-	✓		✓		✓	Measure objects on your computer screen.
AR Measurement apps	✓	-		✓		✓		Measure distances using your device's camera.
Maps 3d	✓	\$5		✓				3D mapping with advanced features.
Theodolite		\$6		✓				Advanced AR landscape imaging and measurements.
Water Point Mapper	✓	-					✓	Information to help with all things water-related.
SoilGrids.org	✓	-					✓	Discover and map your soil.
NCRS Soil apps	✓	-	✓		✓		✓	Huge selection of soil apps, mostly useful in USA.
UCDavis Soil apps	✓	-	✓		✓		✓	More soil apps! USA only.
Contour Map Generator	✓	-					✓	Find and document your site contours.
SunEarth Tools	✓	-					✓	Everything you need for your solar power calculations.
SunSurveyor		\$10		✓		✓		3D compass and interactive sky map.
SunCalc	✓	-					✓	Interactive sun movement and sunlight phase map.
Shadow Calculator	✓	-					✓	Sun shadow on Google maps.
SunSeeker		\$10-30	✓	✓		✓		Solar tracking and compass app.
GIS Mapping apps	✓	-					✓	Advanced, open-source tools for cartographers.

DRAWING & RENDERING DESIGNS

Sketchbook	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓		Powerful app made by architects includes large community.
Affinity Designer		\$20-50	✓	✓	✓			Closest alternative to Adobe Illustrator, no monthly fee.
Q-CAD	✓		✓		✓			Open-source multi-layer 2D drafting and designs.
GIMP	✓	-	✓		✓			Advanced, open-source image editing.
Inkscape	✓	-	✓		✓			Open-source vector drawing.
Concepts	✓	\$10+		✓				Vector ink, infinite canvas, scaleable drawing & design.
Procreate		\$10		✓				Best overall for designing on an iPad. Buy it.
SketchUp	✓	monthly	✓		✓		✓	3D modeling. Free version is robust.
Realtime Landscaping	✓	\$90-400					✓	Trial version very limited. Comes highly recommended.
Home Outside		\$3/\$25	✓	✓				Limited features but easy to use layer-based design.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photopea	✓	-					✓	Free online photoshop; does full-scale graphic design.
Ultralight	✓	\$8		✓				Well worth the upgrade, excellent photo app.
Snapseed	✓	-		✓		✓		Powerful and free, from the creator of Photoshop
Fotor	✓	monthly	✓	✓	✓	✓		Free version very robust; great for photo collages.
Orasis	✓	\$2		✓				Instant and easy photo enhancement.

PRESENTATIONS

Canva	✓	monthly		✓		✓	✓	Great for making charts and graphics.
Google Slides	✓	-		✓		✓	✓	Free, easy, shareable, with full set of exporting options.
Komodo Decks	✓	-		✓				Make voiceover videos for PDF documents.
PerfectVideo		\$5		✓				Super easy to use slideshow, video, and voiceover app.
Vidra		\$7		✓				Multilayer slide presentations with tons of features.
Vittle Pro	✓	\$25		✓				Skip the free version and go for the full Pro version. Worth it.
LumaFusion		\$30		✓				Excellent pro-quality yet easy to use video editing.
Jitsi	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Free, open-source, secure meetings and screencasting
Loom	✓	monthly	✓		✓		✓	Record your screen and your face at the same time, for free.
ScreenFlow	✓	\$130	✓		✓			Free version is watermarked but full-featured.
iMovie	✓	-	✓	✓				Learning curve is steep but capabilities are huge.
Windows Movie Maker	✓	-			✓	✓		Free Windows video editing app made by Microsoft