

## SMART INVESTING – A FOOD FOREST HAS THE BEST RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Planting a food forest turns out to be a fabulous investment. The Return on Investment (ROI) received approaches INFINITY over time. I capitalized that word, because what other investment approaches infinity?

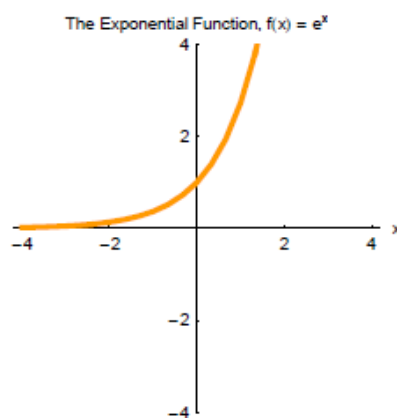


Nature grows in patterns that expand infinitely, as seen in the fractal patterns in tree branches, in the vein designs of leaves, in the unfolding of flowers, in the power of roots, and the life force potential of seeds.

I have spent the last eight years observing and enjoying nature in action as I tend my food forest. Initially, I simply hoped to enjoy the juicy fruits, the tasty nuts and seeds, the lovely fragrances, and the healthy herbs. That is fabulous abundance right there, but that was only the beginning of the wealth I discovered.

The plants in the food forest also reproduce exponentially, so the abundance expands exponentially!

The branch of mathematics called Calculus deals with exponential increases where numbers get bigger fast and approach infinity. This best describes the kind of math I see in the food forest every day. In this image, check out the orange number line climbing rapidly and approaching infinity.



*Graphic Image of numbers getting larger and approaching infinity, from Socratic.org*

I see this type of exponential growth curve going on in the food forest every day, especially in seeds, which grow in great abundance in the food forest, and are the best example of exponential growth.

Here is one example of this phenomenon:

A romaine lettuce plant that grew from one single seed I planted. As it matured, we enjoyed eating the leaves of the young plant.

After a few months, the plant began putting energy into producing seeds, so the foliage yellowed, and these puffy white flowers appeared. Inside of each flower is about 10 or 20 seeds. (Yes, I counted).

I picked off most of the flowers and seeds to plant elsewhere in the food forest, and a couple of days later, a new batch of more flowers grew back to replace the ones I picked.

Here is a photo of the second round of flowers that replaced the first round.



One (1) seed can grow into thousands (1000's) of seeds of its kind in as short as 3–6 months.

Let us do the math on the Return on Investment you get from a well-planted seed.

Let us say, as in the picture above, that you "invested" 1 lettuce seed by planting the seed in the ground and letting it grow for a few months.

Then you harvested 1,000 seeds that grew from that lettuce plant, so you ended up with 1,000 seeds.

Here is the simple "Return on Investment" formula:

$$\text{ROI} = \frac{(\text{Gain from Investment} - \text{Cost of Investment})}{\text{Cost of Investment}}$$

Copied from Investopedia.com

(1000 seeds gained — 1 seed invested) = 999 seeds increase.

999 seeds / 1 seed cost of investment = 999% return on investment.

If you get a return of 1000 seeds from growing 1 seed, then you get 999 more seeds.

Divide the 999 seeds you got by the 1 seed you put in, and there is your ROI percentage.

**999% return on investment for growing a seed — in under 6 months.**

Compare that to the stock market, where you can expect to average 8% Return on Investment per year. That is if you are lucky, and you keep your money invested in the stock market for

30 years. There is also the possibility that you might lose some or all your money.

Imagine how many seeds you might have after a few years of planting seeds! You could plant 1000 lettuce seeds, and if most of those grow, then you end up with even more seeds.

Are you getting the idea that nature expands infinitely using seeds? It is remarkable and surprising that hardly anyone talks about it.



*Cilantro seeds from our naturalized cilantro plants. They reseed and grow wild in the food forest*

Let us say you plant a tree instead of a seed. You will receive fruit and seeds from that tree for decades!

We are grateful to have several fruit trees that are over 60 years old and are still producing fruit.

Imagine someone else planted them years ago, and we continue to enjoy the fruits of their labor of 1 hour or so in planting a fruit or nut tree! Magnificent Abundance.

Forget about fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, and tilling by the sweat of your brow.



This decades-old macadamia tree still gives delicious nuts.

Plant a fruit or nut tree, give fruit or nuts for future generations.

Another excellent example of nature's expansion is multiplication through spreading underground. Look at these bananas that expand their roots into the soil and pop up new banana plants.



New banana trees grow from the roots of existing banana trees.

Then new generations of bananas grow from the roots of those bananas, and then the pattern expands, over and over, generating more bananas outward in all directions.

It is bananas!

There is no doubt that a food forest produces a fabulous abundance of good food for people. Everyone talks about eating healthier food, and this is a simple, direct way to provide healthy food for yourself.



Another miracle of the food forest is that it also produces healthy food and habitats for wild creatures that feed on plants and each other and create a stable ecosystem.

Our food forest is home to coyotes, rabbits, squirrels, gophers, lizards, spiders, birds, insects, possums, raccoons, mice, rats, snakes, skunks, and cats.

They all go about their business, doing what they were born to do.

We feel great knowing that these creatures like living here in the food forest too!

Forest gardens work in harmony with Planet Earth's natural processes.

If you want to see real abundance, look to a food forest rather than an interest-earning financial account.

I give you this Food for thought: There is more than enough food for us on Planet Earth because everything growing expands.