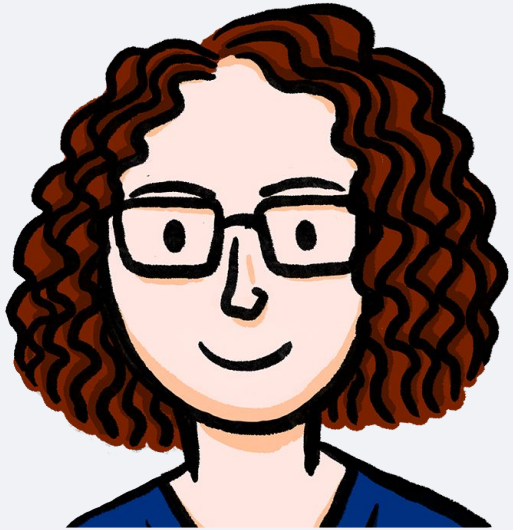
Back to Basics:
Building Resilient Cyber Defenses

But make it garden

Yael Grauer

DEF CON 33

Crypto & Privacy Village 🗝️👻🫛



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- **Program manager**, Cybersecurity Research at Consumer Reports
- **Investigative tech reporter** covering privacy, security, digital freedom
- **Maintainer**, Big Ass Data Broker Opt-Out List (BADBOOL)
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- **I'm at yaelwrites.com!**

Cybersecurity Basics

Get a Password Manager

Create strong, unique passwords for each account—and keep them all in a secure place.



Set Up Multifactor Authentication

Add an extra layer of security to your accounts so that even if someone knows your password, they won't be able to log in.



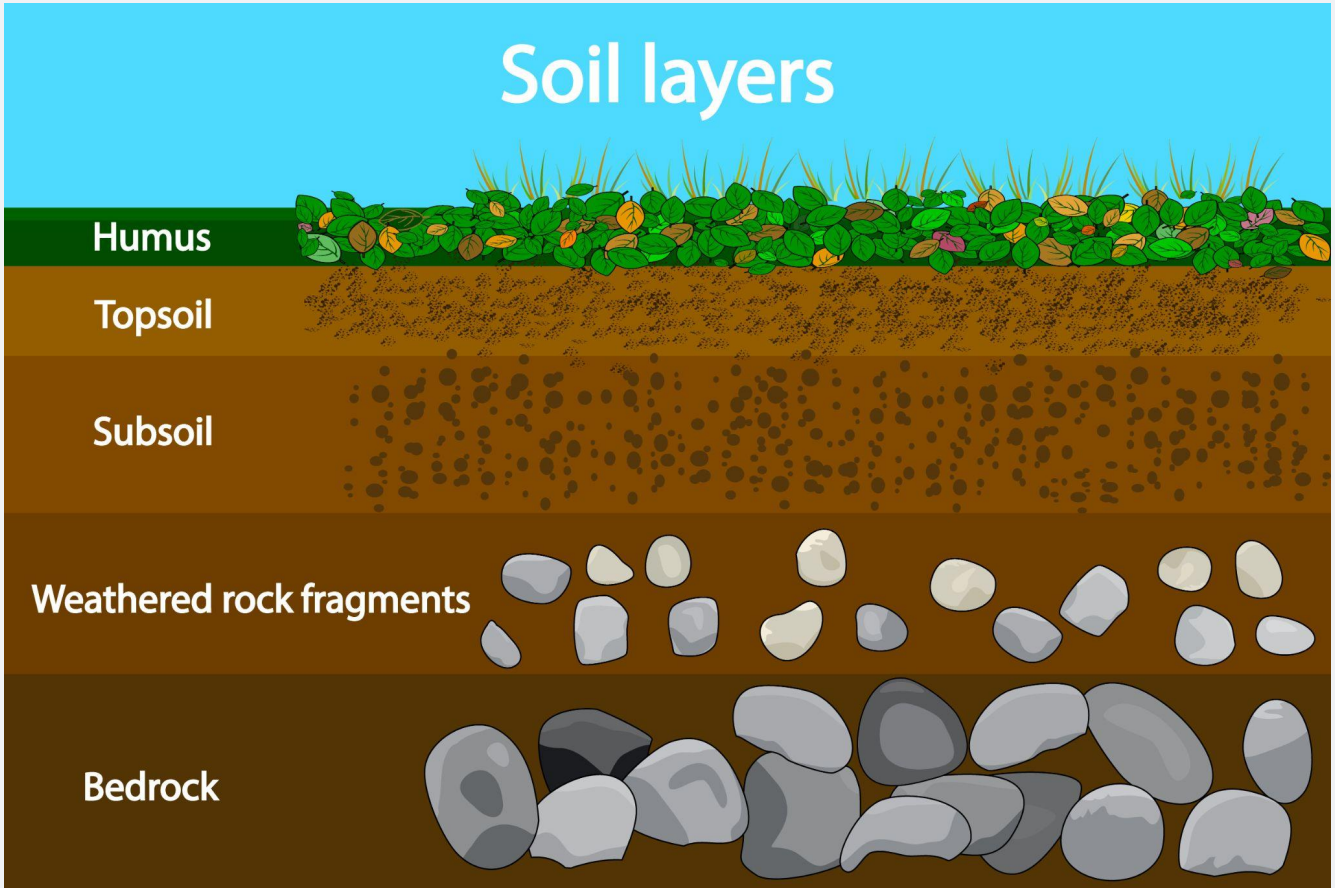


but make it garden!!!

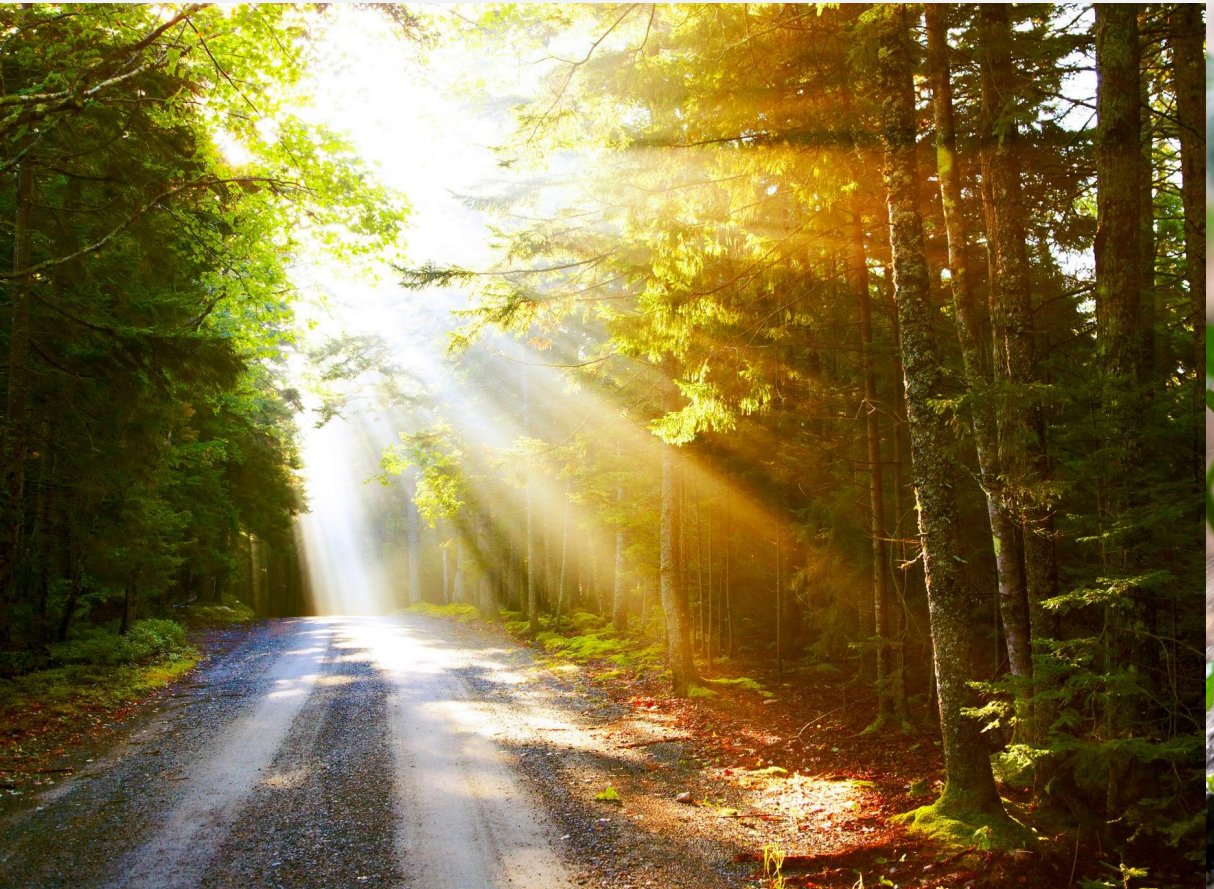
attack surface aka garden plot



layered defense



sun and water and nutrients





walled garden/open garden



walled garden/open garden



mulch & landscape fabric





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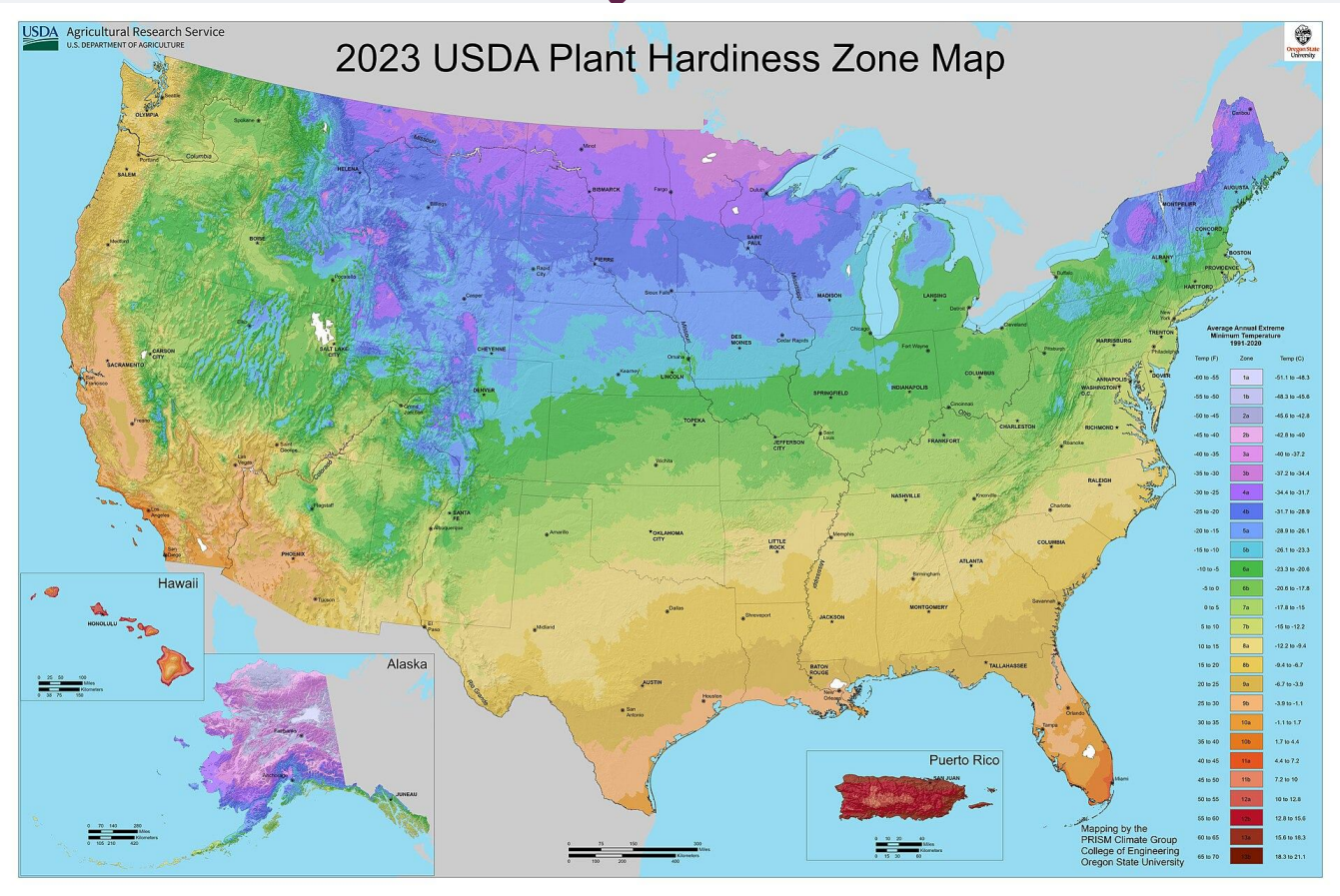
threat models aka plant hardiness zones



Your threat landscape changes with your environment/ecosystem





prepare for specific situations/events



"expert" advice

"I picked up a book on gardens, so I could study flowers and trees and vines in that way, and honest to God, people who read my novel believed that I loved to garden… until I let them know that I had only been winging it, with a lot of help from people around me, people who knew a lot more about gardens than I…." –Anne Lamott

Viral Security Advice: True or False?

- Disable ad ID

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- **Stop using Signal**

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- Disable ad ID
- Stop using Signal
- Use a VPN

Viral Security Advice: True or False?

- Disable ad ID
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- Leave your phone at home when protesting

Viral Security Advice: True or False?

- Disable ad ID
- Stop using Signal
- Use a VPN
- Leave your phone at home when protesting
- Avoid period tracking apps

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- Use special settings to prevent AI training on your data

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- **Cover your laptop camera**
- Disable your microphone

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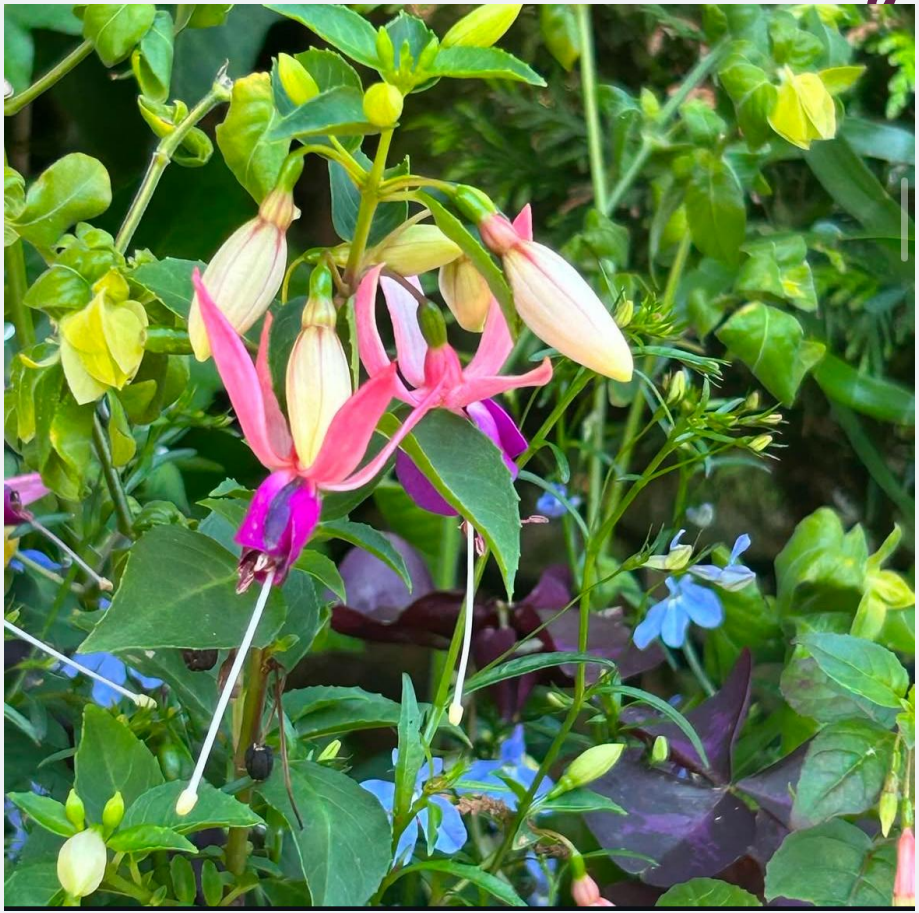
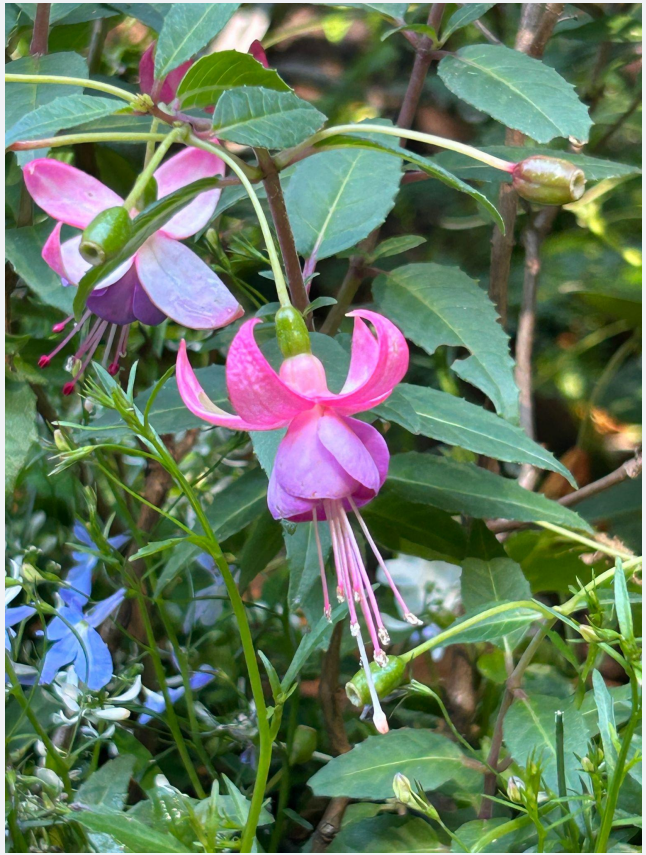
- Cover your laptop camera
- **Disable your microphone**

Old-Fashioned or New-Fangled?



Questions?





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