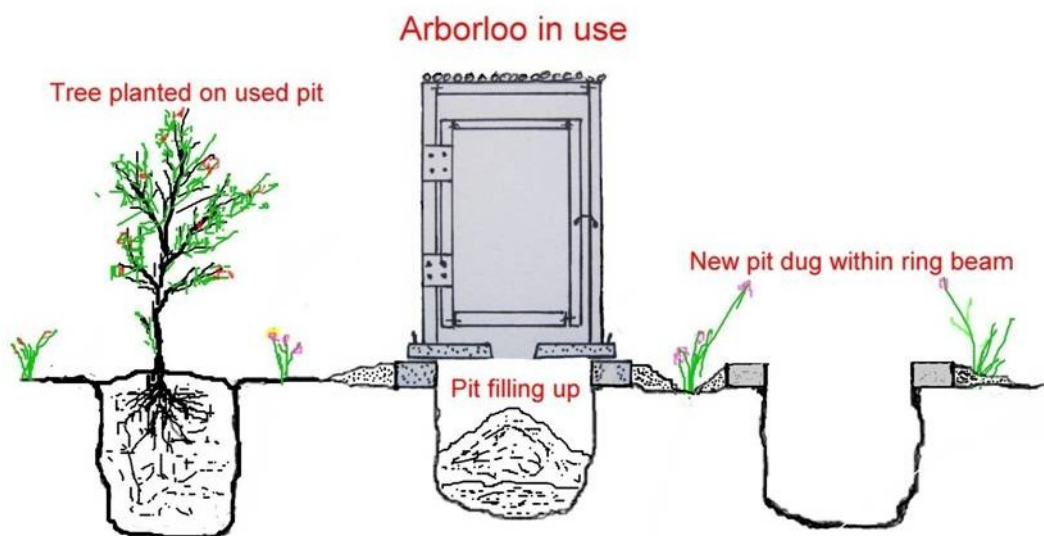


Good Practice 1

Arborloos

Arborloos are small, short-life, and extremely low-cost pit latrines specifically designed to cultivate high-value trees (fruit trees, for instance, or medicinal trees - see Further Information below) (Morgan, 2007a,b; Simpson-Hébert, 2007). With greywater use for irrigation (see 'Good Practice 6') Arborloos are a highly sustainable sanitation system and one that is probably the most appropriate to use in dispersed rural communities. Arborloos can be considered a very simple EcoSan system (see 'Good Practice 7') and one in which there is no handling of either the faeces or urine.

The Arborloo functions as shown in the figure below: a shallow pit (0.8 m dia. and 1-1.5 m deep) is dug and a coverslab and portable superstructure (made from local materials) placed over it. This Arborloo latrine is used for 6- 12 months (soil, leaves and/or ash are regularly added to the pit to accelerate the composting process - ash is a good source of potassium), after which time a new pit is dug and the coverslab and superstructure placed over it. Soil is added to the full pit to just above ground level and a young tree planted; its roots grow down into the composted excreta/soil/leaves/ashes in the pit and, as a result, the tree grows quickly (greywater can be used to water it) and it soon provides an income for the farmer. This process is repeated until the farmer has an orchard of the desired size. (Detailed construction advice is given in Morgan, 2007a.)



References

- P. R. Morgan (2007a). *Toilets that Make Compost: Low-cost Sanitary Toilets that Produce Valuable Compost for Crops in an African Context*. EcoSanRes Programme, Stockholm, available at: http://www.ecosanres.org/toilets_that_make_compost.htm.
- P. R. Morgan (2007b). Ecosan at low cost – with the potential for upgrading. *Waterlines* 26 (2), 6-7.
- M. Simpson-Hébert (2007). Low-cost Arborloo offers Ethiopians health and agriculture benefits. *Waterlines* 26 (2), 12-14.

Further information

University of Leeds Arborloos webpage:

<http://www.personal.leeds.ac.uk/~cen6ddm/Arborloos.html>