

WELCOME TO THE GARDENS!

We're so glad that you chose to visit the Plateau Discovery Gardens! The Gardens were established in 2005 when Director of facilities, Walt Hitch, reached out to local Ag Agent, Gregg Upchurch, to see if Cumberland County Master Gardeners would be interested in planting a demonstration garden. The goal was to add a new plot every year with the graduating class.

By 2009 Dr. Mark Windham, UT Professor of Plant Pathology, began conducting research trials within the gardens. This allowed the garden to grow and be advertised as a public research and demonstration garden. Not long after, 'Classes in the Garden' were added, as well as opportunities for college internships.

In 2013, the Gardens became the third of the University of Tennessee Gardens, also designated the State Botanical Garden of Tennessee. The Gardens have continued to grow over the years with the addition of the KinderGarden, which is a certified Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom, designated a reference garden for the American Conifer Society, as well as a Monarch Waystation. The Gardens have also been recognized for several Master Gardener Search for Excellence awards.

We hope that you enjoy your time here at the Gardens and enjoy all of the great opportunities it has to offer! The beautiful gardens have truly grown beyond the main idea and we intend to keep growing with your help!



Mission Statement: The mission of the State Botanical Gardens of Tennessee is to inspire, educate, and cultivate an appreciation of plants through horticultural displays, educational programs, and research at our sites located in geographically diverse regions across the state.

A special thanks to our 2021 intern, Chloe for creating this brochure

EVENTS:

Fall Gardeners' Festival

Every August we host this fun and educational day that is free to the public. Complete with several garden related presentations, educational displays garden vendors, and more!

Check out our website below to stay updated with classes and other events such as annual plant sales and fundraisers.

OTHER INFO:

Membership:

utgardens.tennessee.edu/membership

Donations:

advanceUTIA.com/PlateauDiscoveryGarden

For information on **volunteering** or our **Adopt-a**

Spot Program

Shalena Durkot, Garden Coordinator
sdurkot@utk.edu

HOURS:

The gardens are free and open to the public 365 days a year. Our offices are open
M-F 7:30am-3:30pm

CONTACT INFO:

Address: UT Plateau AgResearch and Education Center 320 Experiment Station Rd.
Crossville, TN 38571

Contact: (931) 484-0034

Website: ag.tennessee.edu/plateaugardens

Facebook: facebook.com/PlateauDiscoveryGarden



24. Hydrangea Research Trail: (2009-2017) This study included sixty-nine varieties in the original trial. One question that arose from the initial study: Why don't these hydrangeas bloom as profusely as in other areas of the state and country?

25. Moss Display: Turf grasses often struggle to survive in shade, especially during hot and humid summer months. Mosses may be an excellent alternative. The shade-tolerant mosses in this demonstration vary in color, form, height, and growth rates.

26. Water Feature: (1st Commercial Sponsor) This water feature offers a melodious tune with a natural ability to attract birds and butterflies. It is also a display of groundcovers.

27. Mary's Trial: (Planted 2012, Updated 2014) Affectionately named after our first garden intern, this research trial symbolizes the unique opportunities available with a college internship by the CCMGI and Plateau Research and Education Center. For more information visit ccmga.org or plateau.tennessee.edu

28. Sun Perennial Garden: (Class of 2006) These plants are called perennials because they can live more than two years. The varieties presented here require full sun.

29. Celebration of Life-Conifers: (Planted 2008, Expanded 2016) This site was identified in 2017 as a Reference Garden by the American Conifer Society. In this bed, you will find commonly planted conifers. (ACS reference card with plant location is available in the information birdhouse)

30. Four Season Sensory Garden: (Class of 2015) As demonstrated here, selecting a variety of plants based upon their peak season of interest will elicit the senses year-round.

31. Native Plants of Tennessee: (Class of 2012) Native plants are adapted to climate, rainfall, and soils found in a particular region which makes them more drought tolerant and disease resistant. The plants chosen here provide a mixture of colors and textures.

Please scan this QR code to find videos about the garden!



UT Gardens-Crossville:



Visitor guide and map





1. Rain Garden: (2013) This garden is strategically placed to absorb runoff to prevent erosion, flooding, and water pollution. Native plants are used here because they are more tolerant to the local climate, soil and water conditions.

2. Home Greenhouse: This demonstration was built in 2015 to show options to homeowners considering a greenhouse purchase. The type of greenhouse you select depends on the growing space needed, the available site, and the cost.

3. Herb Garden and Human Sundial : (Class of 2014) Included here are four classifications of herbs: culinary, sensory, tea, and medicinal. Follow the pavers to the center facing forward (north) and raise your arm out even with your shoulder. Your shadow will fall indicating the time of day.

4. Turf Plot: (Class of 2009, renovated 2018) The Cumberland Plateau is considered a transition zone for turf. It is cold enough in the winter to challenge warm season varieties and warm enough in the summer to challenge cool season varieties. Six common turfs are planted here.

5. Weather Station: (Recording since 1943) In cooperation with the National Weather Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), weather measurements continue to be read and recorded daily, documenting air temperature, evaporation, wind movement and precipitation.

6. KinderGarden: (2015) This interactive space was designed for children ages 3-7 to enhance curiosity in the garden. In 2018 it was certified as a Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom; that years intern, Brianah, also introduced the augmented learning component.

7. Home on the Plateau: (Class of 2011) The home structure here delineates a formal style in the front yard and an informal or more relaxing backyard. Be sure to note the working rain barrel!

8. Raised Bed Demonstration: (Class of 2010) Soils on the Plateau tend to be shallow, have a low pH, and drain quickly. This is why Raised beds such as these are beneficial. They also aid the physically challenged.

9. Mixed Screen Plantings: (2022) Multiple plant species provide diversity and safeguard against potential insect and disease problems. This display is trying to accomplish just that.

10. Composting: (2012) This display is cost effective and good for the garden. Handouts available.

11. Redbud Research Trial: (2009-2015) Redbuds are an early blooming tree with rose-pink, pea-like flowers, heart shaped leaves, and flat brown seed pods. There are several varieties throughout the garden.

12. Ornamental Grasses Trial: (Research Trial 2009-2015) Whether annual or perennial, these ornamental grasses provide four seasons of interest based on size, shape, and seasonal color change.

13. Aquaponics: This system of gardening uses waste produced by koi fish to supply the nutrients for plants to grow hydroponically. The plants purify the water and then it is returned to the pond. Designed by Hannah, our 2017 summer intern.

14. Tiered Display: (2014) This demonstration was built to show creative use of containers for gardening with tiered feed troughs and recycled glass that you can purchase at your recycling center!

15. Daylily Bed (2014) and Daylily trial (2018): There is a small plot of daylilies and a large curve around the Outdoor Classroom with 450 varieties planted 5 times creating 2250 plants in total. These easy to grow perennials are a must see when in bloom.

16. The Andy-Taylor Shade Garden: As showcased by the 2015 summer interns (Andy and Taylor), shade tolerant plants are available and survive beautifully as demonstrated here beneath the tree line.

17. Tree and Shrub Garden: (Class of 2005) Whether for privacy, ornamental impact, edible benefit, or seasonal interest, trees and shrubs become the foundation of a landscape. Just as they do here in this garden.

18. Bulb Garden: (Class of 2008) Commonly referred to as bulbs these plants offer different types of underground storage structures that include corms, tubers, tuberous roots, tuberous stems, and rhizomes. This site has been interspersed with annuals, perennials, and a few shrubs.

19. Foodscaping: 2019 summer intern, Susanna, integrated edible plants here that can add color, texture, fragrance, and food for all meals right in your backyard!

20. Butterfly Garden: (Initiated 2012, Enhanced 2016) Butterflies require two types of plants: host (for the growth cycle) and nectar (a sweet liquid for nourishment). Large flat stones are needed for warmth, shelter must be provided from breezes, and puddles available for water. This bed has even become recognized as a Monarch Waystation by Monarch Watch.

21. Tennessee Smart Yard: The plants in this plot are all on the Tennessee Smart Yards list. A "smart yard" is in tune with the local environment for the benefit of both people and our ecosystem. For information about this program visit tnyards.utk.edu

22. Hardy Hibiscus Trial: (2022) Plants derived from crosses made by Dr. Andy Pulte at the UT Gardens, Knoxville. Evaluation includes: ability to produce large amounts of blooms over long periods of time and overall pest resistance and garden size. The best of these hibiscus will continue on for further evaluations.

23. Rose Garden: The University of Tennessee has been instrumental to the rose industry by conducting rose trials over recent years and continues by researching Rose Rosette disease, also known as "Witches Broom of the Rose". This disease is caused by a virus spread by a very small, eriophyid mite. This plot was planted in 2009 to show some of the plants resistant to the disease.

Descriptions are
continued on the back!