

Daylily Bed: Initiated 2014

Although each daylily blossom only flowers for one day, each plant produces an abundance of buds that open over a long period of time. Daylilies are useful as a border plant, planted in large masses, or as a ground cover.

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Daylily Trial: Initiated 2018

In a very large curve around the Outdoor Classroom, 450 varieties of daylilies have been planted, each 5 times within this section, creating a bed of 2250 plants in total. Some plants are even rebloomers, extending the season into August. Be sure to come back and visit often!

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Tiered Display: Created 2014

Whether a large yard or a small porch, the creative use of containers offer gardening opportunities for most residences, as demonstrated by the tiering of these feeding troughs. The recycled glass mulch is available from the Cumberland County Recycling Center. Be sure to take a container with you to purchase glass for yourself!

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The Andy-Taylor Shade Garden: 2015

Many homeowners incorrectly believe "nothing grows in the shade". As showcased by 2015 summer interns (Andy and Taylor), shade tolerant plants are available and do indeed survive beautifully in the shade, demonstrated here beneath a tree line.

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Aquaponics: Taking Hydroponics Further

Aquaponics is a system of gardening where the waste produced by koi (fish that will survive outdoors during the winter on the Plateau) supplies the nutrients for plants grown hydroponically. The plants purify the water, which is then returned to the pond.

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This system was designed and installed by Hannah, our 2017 summer intern, majoring in Agricultural Engineering.

This concludes the walking tour of the UT Gardens-Crossville: Plateau Discovery Gardens. Come back often to the "Plateau" and "Discover" the ongoing changes of our seasonal "Gardens"!

UT Gardens-Crossville: Plateau Discovery Gardens



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Self-Guided Walking Tour
Summer 2019



Welcome to our gardens! This walking tour will take you through the center and then around the perimeters of the gardens. Match the plot numbers to numbers on this brochure for information. Please: *take only photographs; leave only footprints* and be sure to access additional information by utilizing the QR codes.



Front Porch To The Gardens

Relax and enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the Gardens from the deck. Handouts are available in the red display box. Help yourself!

The tour begins as you face the quilt block found on the shed wall. The traditional 8-pointed star, "as ye sow, so shall ye reap" is perfect for the UT Gardens, Crossville.

Rain Garden: Established 2013

Facing the quilt block, turn to your left to find a sunken garden. This strategically placed depression absorbs rainwater runoff from the roof, driveway, parking lot and compacted lawn area. A rain garden prevents erosion, flooding, and water pollution as the storm-water soaks into the ground. Native plants are often used because they are more tolerant of the local climate, soil, and water conditions.

1



Follow the chipped path to the directional sign to continue the tour.

Native Plants of Tennessee: Class of 2012

Native plants are adapted to climate, rainfall, and soils found in a particular region. They are generally more drought tolerant and disease resistant than non-native species. The plants chosen here provide a mixture of colors and textures nestled among commonly found rocks, boulders, and logs. NOTE: To preserve the natural beauty of Tennessee, please do not collect natives from the wild.

2

Human Sundial within Herb Bed: Class of 2014

Four classifications of perennial herbs are included (culinary, fragrant, teas, medicinal), although many serve multiple purposes. To activate the sundial, follow the pavers to the center, face forward (north), and raise an arm out even with your shoulder. Your shadow will fall indicating the approximate time of day.

3

Turf: 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 commonly planted turfs are demonstrated here.

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Home on the Plateau: Class of 2011

Simplistic beauty and a welcoming environment harkens to a simpler time, one which takes us back to Grandma's garden. The home structure delineates a formal style in the "front" yard with an "informal" or more relaxing backyard. Be sure to note the working rain barrel!

5

KinderGarden: 2015

Child's work is child's play. Designed for children ages 3-7 years, this garden

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enhances curiosity while inviting interaction. Go ahead! Allow your inner child time to play! Don't miss the augmented learning component created by 2018 intern Brianah. Directions can be found at the gate. We are proud to share that our children's garden was certified a Nature Explore classroom in 2018.



Weather Station: Recording Since 1943

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

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The tour continues at the water feature.

Water Feature: 1st Commercial Sponsor

Water features offer a melodious tune with a natural ability to attract birds and butterflies. The plants showcased here are considered “ground covers”. The term “ground cover” has different meanings to different folks: layer beneath shrubs (ecosystem); plants that lie on top of soil protecting it from erosion (agriculture), or, plants used in place of turf (homeowners).

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Four Season Sensory Garden: Class of 2015

Looking to stimulate your senses? Plant a garden! As demonstrated here, selecting a variety of plants based upon their peak season of interest will elicit the senses year round.

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Mary’s Trial: Initially planted 2012; Updated 2014

Affectionately referred to as “Mary’s”, this research trial symbolizes the unique opportunities available with a college internship offered by the CCMGA and the Plateau Research and Education Center. For more information on this internship, visit ccmga.org or plateau.tennessee.edu.

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Looking over your left shoulder you’ll find the...

Celebration of Life-Conifers: Planted 2008, Expanded Fall 2016

This site was identified in 2017 as a Reference Garden by the American Conifer Society. (The supplemental card identifies the locations of conifers planted throughout the Gardens.) A conifer is a tree or shrub that

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bears cones and has needle- or scale-like leaves. In this bed, you will find commonly planted conifers. The extension of this display (between beds 13 and 25), showcases unique conifer varieties.



Perennial Sun: Class of 2006

Because perennials are plants that live more than 2 years, they are often sought after by gardeners of all abilities. The varieties demonstrated here require full sun. Remember to water deeply to ensure a deep root system and mulch to discourage weeds and retain soil moisture.

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Through the arbor, walking the chipped path...

Tree and Shrub: Class of 2005

Whether for privacy, ornamental impact, edible benefit, or seasonal interest, trees and shrubs become the foundation of a landscape. They can be deciduous or evergreen and are available in a variety of shapes, forms and color.

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Walking in front of the expanded conifer bed...

Three Seasons of Bulbs: Class of 2008

Bulbs are planted to extend a garden’s floral display from early spring until late fall. Commonly referred to as bulbs, these plants offer a different type 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.

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Foodscaping: The Edible Landscape (2019)

2019 summer intern Susanna has integrated edibles to maximize this garden space. Edible plants, as those demonstrated here, will add color, texture, or fragrance to a front entrance or back patio. Utilize tall varieties such as corn and sunflowers for height or to act as an edible hedge. Adding containers to a porch or deck will provide interest as well as food for all meals. YUM!!

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*** Ornamental research trials were introduced to the gardens in 2009, and are overseen by Dr. Mark Windham, Professor at UT.**

Plan to join us each year at our Fall Gardeners’ Festival (a free outdoor event created for the home gardener) held the last Tuesday in August. Visit our Garden website and/or Facebook pages for more information.

Hydrangeas: Research Trial 2009-2017*

Of the 23 worldwide hydrangea species, only 5 are widely cultivated in the United States. Sixty-nine varieties were included in the original research 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?

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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 become recognized as a Monarch Waystation by Monarch Watch.

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The Crossville Tree Board gifted the UT Gardens, Crossville with native trees. These trees have been planted around the perimeter of the Gardens and are labeled for your reference. When you see a member of tree board, please let them know you saw their trees here!

Roses: Planted 2009

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.

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Redbuds: Research Trial 2009-2015*

Redbuds are a beautiful, early blooming tree commonly found at forest edges, disturbed areas, or in managed landscapes. It is distinguished by its rose-pink, pea-like flowers, heart-shaped leaves, and flat brown-like seed pods. Sixteen varieties of redbuds were included in this trial, most of which can be found throughout the Gardens.

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The tour will resume at the greenhouse.

Home Greenhouse: 2015

Greenhouses must provide a proper environment for growing plants. The type of greenhouse selected by the homeowner depends on the growing space needed, home architecture, available site, and cost. This particular greenhouse structure was chosen to demonstrate options a homeowner has when considering a greenhouse purchase.

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Raised Bed Demonstration: Class of 2010

With an average soil depth of 18-24 inches and a composition of Pennsylvanian Age Sandstone, gardening on the Plateau can be a challenge. Our soils tend to have a low pH value and drain quickly. Raised beds are beneficial in circumstances like ours. They also aid the physically challenged gardener. Those with back bending issues benefit from the taller bed shown here, while lower beds allow a seat for comfortable gardening without having to rely on unnecessary twisting or bending.

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Composting: Reintroduced 2012

Compost is a cost-effective soil amendment, often known as the “black gold” of gardens. An informational sheet posted on the fence post explains and answers common composting questions. Copies can be found (along with other handouts) either in the “birdhouse” at the garden entrance or inside the office.

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Ornamental Grasses: Research Trial 2009-2015*

Whether annual or perennial, ornamental grasses provide four seasons of interest based on size, shape, and seasonal color change. Foliage may feature horizontal or vertical patterns as demonstrated here.

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