

Flourishing beyond the gates: nurturing growth and community connection at Oman Botanic Garden

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Keywords: communities, learning, Oman, outreach, programs, tours

Oman Botanic Garden (OBG) is a leading global project dedicated to protecting, conserving, cultivating, and showcasing native flora. While not open to the public, the garden utilizes facilities such as the nursery to engage with the community and fulfill its objectives. Since 2008, the garden has welcomed and benefited over 29,000 visitors. It offers diverse nursery tours, informal learning programs, and outreach initiatives, providing experiential learning opportunities and fostering a deeper understanding of plant diversity, ethnobotany, and sustainability. Through guided tours, visitors can explore the rich botanical diversity of Oman through the nursery's diverse native collection. The nursery's tours also emphasize conservation efforts, with over 85 Red-Listed species. These tours are designed to cater to various interests, such as medicinal plants, horticulture methods and practices, herbarium, or ethnobotany. Each thematic tour is led by knowledgeable guides who not only impart fascinating information but also create an immersive experience by engaging visitors through interactive activities, guided discussion, and storytelling. Informal learning programs and training programs provide numerous benefits for schools and universities. Learning programs in OBG are carefully designed to align with the school curricula, providing teachers and students with hands-on opportunities to explore topics such as plant biology, ecology, and conservation. Moreover, training programs provide individuals with specialized knowledge and practical skills in various fields. These programs range from horticulture and botanical field work, and herbarium studies. Participants are guided by expert instructors, who share their expertise, experiences, and passion for the natural world. In addition, outreach initiatives aim to reach diverse audiences by providing engaging experiences, such as mobile exhibits, community events, workshops, and school gardening. Sharing successful examples and best practices might inspire and inform botanic gardens, educators, and stakeholders in developing impactful and inclusive learning programs and outreach initiatives that contribute to a more environmentally-conscious society.