

Native Medicinal Plant Research Garden (KU Field Station)

The garden was established in 2010 as a project of the **KU Native Medicinal Plant Research Program**, a collaboration between the botany lab of Kelly Kindscher (Kansas Biological Survey) and the medicinal chemistry lab of KU Prof. Barbara Timmermann.

- **Program activities:** Study of the historical medicinal uses of Great Plains plants; collection and testing of plants for naturally occurring medicinal compounds (for antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer properties); development of the Prairie Ethnobotany Database; work with students from both KU and Haskell Indian Nations University; educational outreach.
- **Potential research functions of the garden:** 1) comparison of chemical makeup in the same species grown at the garden site and in a native setting; 2) as a site for growing particular species of interest under a variety of conditions and testing for differences in the potency of their medicinal compounds; and 3) as a site for generating additional seed and plant material, as needed, for plants of interest.
- Students in the fields of environmental studies, engineering, journalism, architecture, fine arts and geology all have taken part in projects at the garden.
- Land for the garden site was provided by KU Endowment.

Garden features

Research area: 55 x 75 feet, about 15 species of native plants, including wild tomatillo, echinacea, rattlesnake master, various mints, white sage, milkweed and others.

Interpretive garden: 70 x 80 feet, currently with themed beds of medicinal plants, including tea/scented plants, native edible plants, classical European medicinals, and native plants that have been included in the U.S. Pharmacopeia and National Formulary. Planted May 2011 by volunteers. In 2016, the Douglas County Extension Master Gardeners and KU Native Medicinal Plant Research Garden began designs to use only native species and expand the educational value.

Shade structure: Built entirely from reclaimed lumber from Westar.

KU Student Farm: Established 2011 as a community garden for students, faculty and staff. Run by student coordinators.



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