Inspiring more than 100,000 families, children, youth, green industry professionals and students so that their lives may be enriched with beauty, better health, a closer connection with nature and a better understanding of plants.
UT Gardens Background

- Established in 1983
- No admission fee
- Open during daylight hours
- An outdoor classroom, museum, laboratory, and therapy center
- Over 100,000 visitors per yr.
Comprised of 10-acres annual displays, perennial border, rose garden, hosta garden, kitchen garden, rock garden, labyrinth, an HGTV demonstration garden and under construction: a constructed wetland and children’s discovery garden.

A Tennessee Certified Arboretum, an American Conifer Society Reference Garden, and an American Hosta Society Demonstration Garden.
Feature more than 2,000 herbaceous perennial and woody plants under long-term observation and 300 varieties of herbaceous plants and rose trials evaluated annually.

Constituents include UT community, consumers and green industry professionals at the local, regional, state, and national level.
Mission Statement

To foster appreciation, education, and stewardship of plants through horticultural gardens, displays, collections, educational programs, special events, and research

The Gardens support all 3 roles of the university: Teaching, Research, and Outreach
Vision

To be recognized as the preeminent university garden linking the people and green industry of Tennessee horticulturally to the nation and the world.
We now have a statewide ‘system’ of UT Gardens – Crossville being the newest addition.
Our statewide presence
This designation:

• Heightens visibility and awareness of a statewide resource that promotes beauty, better health, and a closer connection with nature.

• Supports TN tourism, agribusinesses, and education.

• Recognizes the significance of the UT Gardens to our state and to all Tennesseans.
There are 535 public gardens in the United States that are members of the American Public Garden Association; 90 of these are university gardens. Our UT Gardens have been ranked number 46 out of the 50 chosen and we are one of the 33 USA gardens selected.

Voted as one of the 50 most stunning university gardens and arboreta in the World!

50 Most Stunning University Gardens and Arboreta

Maybe you shouldn’t judge a university by its looks, but you sure can appreciate these ones for the creative and inspiring way they have transformed their space into stunning arboreta and gardens. Whether you are interested in hands-on environmental programs that emphasize conservation and sustainability, or you just love a good magnolia tree, this list of universities has everything from well-manicured gardens with stone fountains to breathtaking waterfalls. The impressive greenhouses and natural landscapes are great spaces for research, recreation, or simply marveling at their brilliant nature designs.

50. Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden (St. John’s, Canada)

Near the colorful entrance to the Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden is where you can find the main flower gardens. University students are responsible for much of the garden maintenance, and they practice soil
UT Gardens Knoxville Operational Budget

- Educational Programs: 1%
- Garden Memberships and Gifts: 8%
- Grants & Contracts: 25%
- Investment Income: 4%
- Research Trials: 2%
- Special Events and Sponsorships: 21%
- UT Support: 39%
The UT Gardens has recognized leadership!
The UT Gardens develop future leaders and the next generation of professional horticulturists. All three UT Gardens offer competitive internships!
The UT Gardens; Creating Timely and Meaningful Spaces

• Building a ‘Children’s Garden’ both in Crossville and Knoxville

• A focus on attracting families, children, and youth – cultivating the next generation of gardeners!

• New staff position in Knoxville – Education Director
  • Background in Environmental Sciences and therapeutic recreation. Recently awarded ‘Registered Horticulture Therapist’ status.

Derrick Stowell
Why Build a Children’s Garden?

Research: Author Richard Louv book: "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder"
What is ‘Nature-Deficit Disorder’?

Children spending too much time ‘indoors’ being physically inactive and not engaged in the natural world.
‘Nature-Deficit Disorder’

Symptoms include depression, obesity, and attention deficit.

‘No Child Left Behind’ is yesterday’s news’
‘No Child Left Indoors’ is today’s news’
Why Build a Children’s Garden?

• Gardening gets children physically active with the focus being on growing plants, not exercise.

• Many children believe their milk and food come from the grocery store. Gardening develops an awareness of the link between nature and our food, clothing and shelter!
Why Build a Children’s Garden?

• Gardening is a fun and effective way to get children to eat fresh vegetables and fruits.

• Studies show children tend to eat what they grow!
Why Build a Children’s Garden?

• Educational studies show that gardening is a great facilitator for learning.

• Children are sensory learners.

• You can use plants to teach math, science, history, and language arts.

• Gardening builds motor skills, social growth, cooperation/teamwork and self-confidence.
Why Build a Children’s Garden?

• Studies show that we develop our attitudes toward the environment by age 8.

• Early exposure to environmental concepts help children develop positive attitudes toward the environment.
Why Build a Children’s Garden?

- Children are our future environmental leaders.
- If we don’t teach and engage them in nature, who will be the future stewards of our environment?
- Attendance at national parks is down!
Why Build a Children’s Garden?

• Nature-play is the current trend in Children's Gardens.

• Children are encouraged to play with organic elements found in nature: water, rock, soil, trees, logs, worms, etc.
UT Gardens Treehouse Competition
NEST
UT GARDENS TREEHOUSE
UT Gardens Crossville ‘KinderGarden’
UT Gardens Crossville ‘KinderGarden’
Storm Water Management

Rain gardens are now at all three UT Gardens locations.
Storm Water Management in Knoxville
The UT Gardens; Research and Plant Performance Evaluation

Building a significant hosta & shade plant collection and garden in Knoxville

Cornelia Holland
Other significant plant collections under evaluation
Other significant plant collections under evaluation
UT Gardens Plant Sales
- Recommendations based upon our trials
The UT Gardens; Gardening Education and Inspiration
14 Different Demonstration Gardens in Crossville
Plateau Discovery Gardens

Location:
UT Plateau AgResearch and Education Center
320 Experiment Station Rd.
Crossville, TN 38571
931-484-0034

Open Daily
(during sunlight hours)

As you stroll the gardens:
* Match the symbols at each garden site to the same symbols in this guide to learn more about each plot.
* Refrain from touching plants in the trial beds to maintain the integrity of the research being conducted.
* Take only photographs, leave only footprints.
* Feel free to walk into the plant beds to read labels identifying the plant names.

We hope you enjoy your stroll through the UT Gardens-Crossville!

Summer 2013
Wanting to Learn and be Inspired?

Visit all of the UT Gardens throughout the Year!
Be sure to visit the UT Gardens website and sign up for our free monthly e-newsletter.

Consider becoming a Friend of the Gardens and supporting what we do.

Friends receive:
• Biannual magazine
• Friends only events
• Discounts on events and plant sales