

Botanical gardens serve as taxonomic and systematic research centres. The department of Botany maintains a well-developed Botanical Garden with an aim to promote ex-situ conservation of rare, endangered and threatened plants of Kerala. This garden is supported by National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India. It is a green panoramic land with excellent biodiversity. The living collections of plants are often much more than attractive artistic exhibits. Many serve to maintain a living store house of genetic diversity that can support a variety of conservation, restoration, and research endeavours.

It has a wide array of medicinal plants, xerophytes, ferns, shrubs and trees. There is green house with many medicinal herbs especially *Piper longum*, *Plumbago zeylanica*, *Sida cordifolia*, *Catharanthus roseus*, *Aegle marmelos* etc. The garden also maintains a pond with aquatic plants. Apart from medicinal plants, the garden has collection of many trees especially *Simarouba glauca*, *Saraca indica*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Michelia champaca* etc. Another main attraction is the collection of Star plants known as Nakshatra vana. These plants are associated with nakshatras of Indian Astrology. It is believed that worshipping the plants of one's star is good for their well-being. The garden has many fruit plants like *Mangifera indica*, *Embllica officinalis*, *Achras sapota*, *Spondias pinnata* etc.

This garden is an attraction to the students and helps them to acquire knowledge of medicinal plants and its importance to the society. The students were made aware of the importance of conservation, sustainable utilisation and biodiversity management. They are involved in all the maintenance activity of the garden along with the staff members of Department of Botany. The management of the College has provided all the support for the successful establishment of the garden.