

Joint International Conference on
**Agriculture and Horticulture
&
Food Science and Aquaculture**
July 28-29 , 2022 / Avani Atrium Bangkok Hotel



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Establishment of the Medicinal Plants Garden and Nursery in the Faculty of Science at Aleppo University

Medicinal plants today are widely recognized in terms of their effectiveness and safety. They can be used to treat many infections and chronic diseases, and they are less expensive than chemical drugs with fewer side effects. Since most universities in the world follow gardens of medicinal plants, the need has arisen to establish a garden and nursery of medicinal plants in the College of Science for teaching, research and decorative purposes, as well as the accompanying activities and programs, including making safe medicinal plants accessible to interested specialists and amateurs, and spreading the culture of herbal medicine in the community surrounding the university.

During the past years, the land was cleaned and its soil prepared for cultivation, a number of agricultural pots and tools were provided, and quantities of seeds and cuttings of medicinal plants were brought. Some medicinal plants began to be planted and propagated, both vegetatively and seedly, in the pots and in the garden soil. The number of medicinal plants species available and planted in the garden, permanently or temporarily, has reached more than 75 species, providing them with introductory plates that include its scientific names, the plant families, and its most important uses and medicinal benefits. Work is currently underway on vegetative and seed propagation of about 20 species of medicinal plants, and a large number of seedlings are being provided that are used to supplement the neighboring gardens in the college by planting them in permanent land. Dried and preserved herbal samples of medicinal plants growing in the garden were also prepared. More than 15 published researches on the plants of the garden have been carried out as follows: two researches on the three species of *Mentha*, three researches on *Artemisia annua*, a research on *Melissa officinalis*, a research on *Cynara scolymus*, a research on the *Vinca major*, two researches on *Lantana camara*, and a research on *Lavandula angustifolia*. And two researches on the *Origanum syriacum*, and two researches on *Glycyrrhiza glabra* and *Ceratonia cilique*. Aspirations relate to training courses and professional work, as the University Council issued a decision to approve the establishment of training courses and programs in medicinal plants and their uses among the activities accompanying the garden, and a large number of seedlings of medicinal plants can be produced with an indication of their benefits and made available for sale to those interested, after the approval of the work unit Professional Work in the Faculty of Science and the issuance of the decisions of the Aleppo University Council in this regard.

Keywords : Medicinal Plants Garden, Seed Propagation, Vegetative Propagation