



# Native Medicinal Plants in the Royal Botanic Garden at Tell Ar-Rumman, Jordan

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## Introduction

The Royal Botanic Garden (RBG) is one of 12 hotspots for medicinal and herbal plants in Jordan. The site is located beside the King Talal reservoir in Tell Ar-Rumman, north of Amman. One of the aims of the RBG is to protect and propagate medicinal plants, and conduct research into their traditional and pharmaceutical uses. It is important to investigate these plant species, study their features and review the medicinal values mentioned in literature as basic data for further research. The objective of the Native Medicinal Plants study is to describe the floristic features and some of the documented pharmaceutical values of the medicinal plants found at the Royal Botanic Garden.

## Methods

**Vegetation survey:** At the RBG, 99 vegetation study sectors were ranked into three groups based on elevation, assigned identity numbers, and then selected randomly. Two or three route transects were carried out in each sector and opportunistic record specimen collections were documented.

**Plant classification:** The head botanist classified the plants using different floras of the region.

**Medicinal plants:** All medicinal plants were identified on the basis of local knowledge, a pharmaceutical literature review of medicinal plants in the area and the Inventory of Medicinal and Herbal Plants, 2001.

## Results and Discussion

A total of 574 plant species were recorded during a plant survey. 11% of them are considered medicinal, distributed among 51 genera and 24 families.

Compositae followed by Labiatae are the most dominant plant families (Fig. 1). These are considered to be very common medicinal and aromatic plant families.

The majority of the plants belong to the Mediterranean territories (Fig. 2), reflecting the RBG's location in the Mediterranean ecoregion of Jordan.

The recorded plants are reported in the literature to have important medicinal values. There is a need to prioritize them for further investigation, in order to conserve them and utilize them for the benefit of the local community in a sustainable manner.

Figure 1: Frequency percentage of medicinal plant families at the Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan

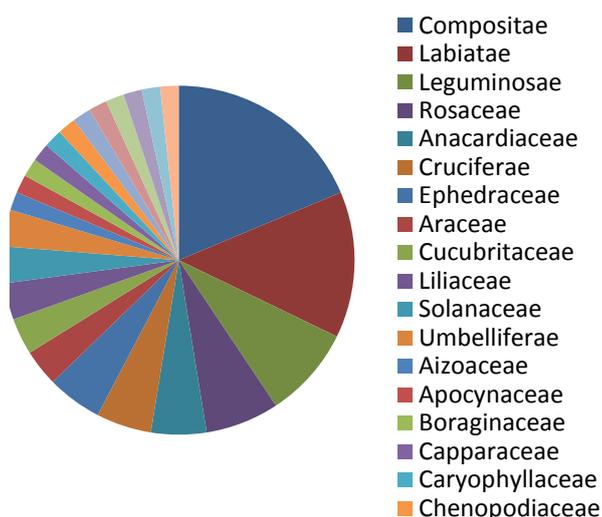
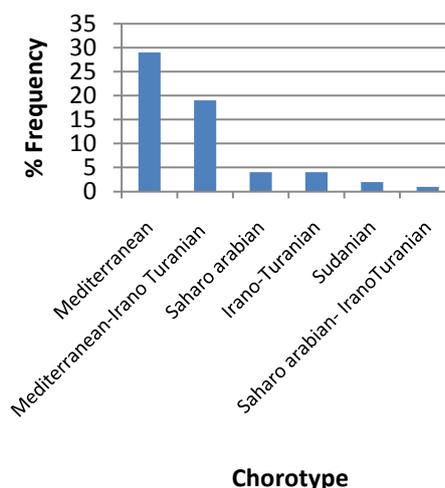


Figure 2: Chorotype frequency of medicinal plant species at the Royal Botanic Garden



*Nerium oleander*  
Antihyperlipidemic  
(Poisonous)



*Ballota undulate*  
Hypolipidemic



*Teucrium capitatum*  
Antidiabetic  
(Toxic)



*Anchusa strigosa*  
Anti ulcer



*Pistacia atlantica*  
Antioxidant



*Thymbra spicata*  
Cholesterol reducer



*Capparis spinosa*  
For arthritis and gout

