

## **Greening urban landscapes: the impact of botanic gardens with a focus on Oman Botanic Garden**

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The Oman Botanic Garden, a significant project underway in the Sultanate of Oman, is set to complete by the first quarter of 2025. With a focus on conservation, learning, and tourism, this ambitious initiative will highlight Oman's rich plant diversity. Spanning over 600,000 m<sup>2</sup> in Muscat, it aims to display over 1,447 native plant species found across Oman's eight primary natural habitats. By showcasing approximately 100,000 individual plants, the garden celebrates the aesthetic and environmental benefits of incorporating native flora into urban landscapes. Currently, Oman's urban landscapes predominantly feature non-native plants, leading to several challenges, including the introduction of diseases, increased water and maintenance needs, and invasive weeds. The Oman Botanic Garden seeks to address these issues by demonstrating the value and resilience of native species, promoting their use in urban planning and landscaping, and providing necessary guidance and advice for implementation. The Garden's vision extends beyond creating a beautiful space; it aims to serve as a sustainable model for urban development, encouraging the replacement of foreign plants with native ones throughout Oman's cities. Additionally, the garden is poised to become a vital resource for municipalities, landscaping businesses, and construction firms, offering access to native plants. Ultimately, the Oman Botanic Garden aspires to transform Oman's urban areas into more sustainable and resilient spaces dominated by native plants. Designed to be a leading example in the Middle East, it will attract researchers, scientists, and tourists, showcasing the importance of biodiversity and eco-friendly urban practices.