

# Forest dept looks to boost use of medicinal plants

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New Delhi: To encourage the use of medicinal plants in the city, the forest department is planning to show distillation process of medicinal plants to educate Delhiites.

A senior forest department official said, "We create medicinal gardens in the city forests and other areas of Delhi. However, to create awareness among Delhiites, we are planning to conduct distillation of medicinal plants for educational purposes".

The forest department is considering conducting distillation of medicinal plants in one of the city forests. At present, Delhi has 17 city forests under the department's jurisdiction.

"Medicinal plants are an important part of biodiversity. Due to their healing properties, such plants are used for making medicines and people also use them in their homes. Distillation of such plants can also result in herbal and aromatic oils which can help people," said another official, adding that the distillation of medicinal plants will be done only for educational purposes and extracted parts will not be sold.

Medicinal plants are being distributed from 14 Delhi govt nurseries so that people can plant saplings in their homes. These nurseries are in central Delhi's Anand Vihar, ITO, Kamla Nehru, Kondli; west Delhi's Rewla Khanpur, Kharkhari Jatmal, Brar Square, Birla Mandir; north Delhi's Pooth Kalan, Qutabgarh, Mamurpur, Alipur and south Delhi's Tughlakabad and Hauz Rani.

To promote the use of medicinal plants, the forest department gives saplings for free. In 2022-23, the annual target was 1.2 crore plantation by various departments and of these, 7 lakh saplings were set aside for free distribution among the public.

The plants which are distributed include 13 immunity boosting medicinal plants including amla, guava, Arjun, curry leaf, Ghrit Kumari, giloy, jamun, neem, lemon, drumstick, basil, bel patra, and bahera.

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