

Lilac, Rose, Black Locust

Many ornamental plants were brought to Minidoka by Japanese Americans during incarceration, and these three still remain at the site. When I visited Minidoka last summer, I was able to see the lilac bush looking out of place surrounded by desert plants.

Sagebrush, Greasewood

Both of these plants native to Southern Idaho and were used in gardens at Minidoka.

Barbed Wire

This art piece would be a nice floral embroidery on its own, but I added barbed wire to reflect the reality of gardens in incarceration camps. There was so much amazing art produced by incarcerated Japanese Americans, but it makes you wonder, why were such beautiful gardens hidden away in the desert? Why were these incredible gardeners, artists, regular people who committed no crimes imprisoned within barbed wire? Japanese Americans did what they could to create a life for themselves, but no matter how beautiful the gardens and flowers, we cannot forget all the injustices that they faced. No one deserves to be imprisoned due to their ethnic background or place of origin.

Special Thanks to Anna Tamura for answering all my questions about gardens at Minidoka.