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A Walk in the DREAM Garden: January

by Lydia Holley

Bright winter days entice the gardener to venture outdoors. Usually, however, there is not much to be seen in most gardens during the month of January. The DREAM garden, however, is not most gardens.

DREAM is an acronym for Demonstrate, Research, Educate, Apply, and Maintain. The garden is designed, planted and maintained by dedicated Henderson County Master Gardeners for the benefit, enjoyment, and education of the citizens and visitors of East Texas. Located at the East Texas Arboretum, the DREAM garden is a favorite photography location for most visitors.



There are numerous plants at the DREAM garden which are still colorful and beautiful, even in January. There are so many, you may want to bring pen and paper along on your visit so you can make notes.

The Savannah hollies entice from far away. The tree's red berries stand out against the white bark as though it is dressed for a party. There are so many berries, you may not be aware of the green leaves that continue to hang on to its limbs.

Stepping through the entrance arbor which is engulfed by a 'Peggy Martin' rose cascading over the top, you may notice that this warm winter has enabled the rose to continue some sporadic blooming. A rose bloom in January is as special as the scent rising from the blooms of the sweet olive that is planted close by.

The seed heads of the garlic chives planted next to the walkway rise to greet you, while seed heads from several types of ornamental grasses wave a cheerful hello. One grass is almost six feet tall, while others are much shorter. Their classic sepia tones have a calming effect.

If you are interested in finding more color to add to a winter garden, look for the clumps of light green and white variegated flax lily and the yellow stripe of the golden variegated sweet flag. The rose 'Red Cascade' is pumping out a few fresh blooms, trying to be as bright as the Firepower dwarf nandinas. A few early blooming yellow daffodils add to the colorful show.

Even in January, the DREAM garden is a beautiful place in which to visit, look for plants to choose for your own garden, or just sit and daydream away a winter's day.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com or visit www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org.