

The IDEA Garden

The IDEA Garden is a project of Smith County Master Gardeners, Smith County AgriLife Extension, City of Tyler Parks & Recreation.

Funding provided by:

- Smith County Master Gardeners
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Smith County Office

With assistance from:

- The Rose Garden Horticulturist
- The Extension Horticulture Agent
- The Rose Garden staff

Initial Funding from:
East Texas Council of Governments
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



Web Site

Check the Smith County Master Gardener web site for information about the garden and upcoming gardening events and a link to the IDEA Garden's plant database.

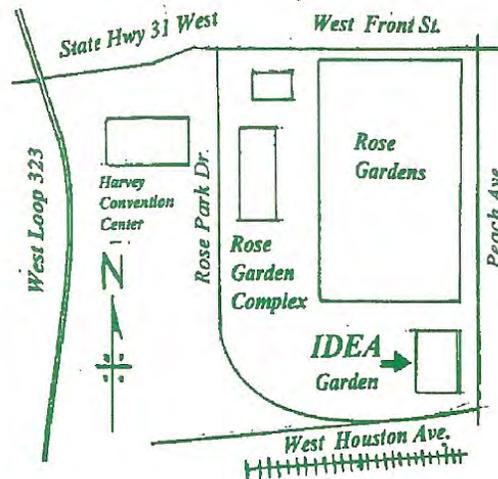
<http://scmg.tamu.edu>

Guided Tours

To schedule a guided tour at the IDEA Garden, contact the Tyler Rose Garden Center at **903-531-1200**.

To Find the IDEA Garden

See map below for directions to the IDEA Garden, 420 Rose Park Drive:



Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Smith County Master Gardeners

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**Located at the Tyler
Rose Garden**

420 Rose Park Drive

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Visit the IDEA Garden

Visit the IDEA Garden and discover a backyard setting, much like you might find at any residence. Located in the southeast corner of the world famous Tyler Municipal Rose Garden, this multipurpose demonstration garden is designed to stimulate ideas for use in your own garden.

At the front of the garden a large perennial display, the "rainbow border," presents year-round color. Backed with a black metal fence and arbors, the border display is only the prelude to the garden itself.



The 10,000 square foot IDEA Garden offers a tranquil setting, designed for the serious gardener seeking new ideas or for the enjoyment of the casual visitor. A pergola and benches welcome visitors to sit and consider the garden's beauty.

Need New Plant Ideas?

The garden features more than 600 varieties of flowers, trees, shrubs, grasses, ground covers, and bog plants. Some are new or currently under utilized, but all are adapted to the Northeast Texas area.



Also featured are new plant promotions and plants being tested and evaluated for use in our region. Consult the IDEA Garden plant database for a complete list. All plants are grown in an environmentally-friendly manner using water conserving methods.

Earth-Kind Gardening Principles

The IDEA Garden uses Earth-Kind



landscaping and gardening techniques that combine the best organic and traditional gardening principles to create a new proven horticultural system. Earth-

Kind uses adapted plants, soil improvement, mulching and other water-conserving techniques, composting yard waste, and the encouraging of beneficial insects to reduce reliance on pesticides. The IDEA Garden proves Earth-Kind's real-world effectiveness and shows environmental responsibility.

Rainwater Harvesting Demo

A demonstration of a simple system for harvesting rainwater provides visitors with ideas for collecting rain and using it to irrigate gardens.



North Texas Winners Circle and Other Adapted Plants

Many IDEA Garden sections spotlight plants selected by the Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center at Overton as especially adapted for our area.

What About Composting?



The IDEA Garden features a simple three-bin system that can be easily constructed by the home owner.

Butterfly Garden and Monarch Waystation

Planned to attract butterflies and hummingbirds, the IDEA Garden has been designated an official Monarch way station by Monarch Watch, a project of the University of Kansas Biological Survey. A free brochure describes how this can be recreated in your own garden.



Learning Choices

You can take away many good ideas through these services:

- Informal Viewing
- Interpretive Signs
- Free Literature
- Guided Tours
- Online Database of Plants

