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The Rose Hill mansion house is surrounded by formal gardens, also referred to as parterre gardens. Parterre gardens are usually planted on level ground and are often symmetrical. These gardens came into great popularity in Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries and again in the 19th century (think of the famous gardens at Schonbrunn and Kensington palaces). Wealthy plantation owners in America followed suit. Boxwoods, a hardy evergreen shrub, are a main staple of formal gardens as they can be planted to create symmetrical designs, outline pathways and fashion mazes. Some of the most common winter flowering plants that you will see in formal gardens are camellias, daphnes, pansies and some species of primrose. So, get started creating your own formal winter garden or come see ours: www.southcarolinaparks.com/rosehill

