

## Bell county Master Gardeners

### Tip of the Week

By Pat Maskunas

#### “Hot Summer, No Rain...Don't Give Up!”

It has been hot, hot, and hot for months, and even for Texans it has been too much heat and drought. We may not think it will get better, but already signs of cooler weather and a little moisture are evident. Now is a great time to renew your gardening passions. Do what gives you pleasure and plan for the fall vegetable season and the fall season.

Plant something! We all admit it has been a difficult season for Texas gardeners. But all is not lost! Now is the time to shear back your perennials about 1/3 and moderately fertilize with a high nitrogen lawn fertilizer. Do not use a weed and feed product!

Plant poppy and larkspur seed for a beautiful spring display. Also now is the time to plant the wildflowers like bluebonnets we want to see in the spring. Late Sept. into Oct. is not too late to plant and don't forget to water all the seeds through the fall into winter. That fall water is crucial for the spring display.

Actually it's also a great time for planting winter veggies, spring blooming perennials, trees, shrubs, and roses. Prepare your soil, then water in a dilute fertilizer solution, and provide some shade for the first few weeks after planting to give your fall garden a terrific start.

Put the Bell County Master Gardeners Fall plant sale on **Sat. Oct.1**, at 7:30 AM to 1PM on your schedule. We are offering several species of trees, Earthkind Roses, winter hardy herbs, succulents, and vegetables. We will provide demonstrations of composting, container gardening, propagation, rainwater harvesting, bee keeping, and herbs. Join us for a fun morning at the Bell County Extension Office on Main Street in Belton. A Kid's Kamp will be provided for fledgling gardeners. Let's get out and get planting!

Have any questions about gardening in Central Texas? Contact

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