

Bell County Master Gardener
Tip of the Week

By Mary Lew Quesinberry and Beverly Wickersham
"Master Gardener's Garden Tour"

Master gardeners will share their gardening secrets at their May 7th garden tour. Five private gardens are open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and each will feature a special event such as beekeeper information and Texas Prairie Pottery at 6530 Cedar Creek Road in Temple. Also in Temple, learn how to deal with garden pests and purchase Texas plant markers at 2914 Olympia Drive, and visit an orchid filled greenhouse at 601 Erie Drive.

In Belton learn about invasive species at 4467 Blue Ridge Drive and enjoy an aviary, disappearing fountain, and a square foot garden. In Salado take a drive in the country to 1315 Trails End Drive to learn about rock and stone dry stacking and view a traditional vegetable garden and beds of native and adapted plants.

Two public gardens are also on the tour. The gardens at the Texas Agrilife Extension Office in Belton, exhibit raised vegetable gardens, pocket gardens, an herb garden and a street-side garden with various kinds of turf grasses, EarthKind roses, and native plants.

The Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden features a "farm" area where vegetables are grown for the various food kitchens in the Bell County area. It contains trellised beds, square-foot beds, and raised beds that demonstrate a variety of gardening ideas. Master gardeners and students have recently planted a pecan and fruit orchard just behind the "farm" area. There is a composting area as well as a rainwater harvesting demonstration. A Boy Scout who is working on his Eagle Scout rank built and installed 8 benches for the garden. Guests now have a comfortable place to sit and view the area. Bob Gordon will host a Tomato Clinic and will be available to answer your gardening questions on tour day.

Tickets for the tour are \$ 5.00 and are available at any of the mentioned gardens.

Visit the master gardener web site: bell-tx.tamu.edu, or call the AgriLife Extension Office at [254-933-5305](tel:254-933-5305). Have any questions about gardening in Central Texas ask.bcmga@gmail.com

In the photo: Tour five private gardens and two public gardens on May 7th. The Gardens located in Killeen, Salado, Belton and Temple will educate and inspire visitors.

