

Bell County Master Gardener Association
Tip of the Week
By Mary Lew Quesinberry
“Plant a Memory”

We all have special events in our lives- births, loss of a family member or friend, marriage, and accomplishments. Planting a tree to honor a special person or event results in a lasting remembrance. You are not limited to placing a tree in your own landscape; a tree can be donated to your church, school, college, library, city park, or club.

Small trees will easily fit into an existing landscape and selecting a tree that has a period of blooms is an extra bonus. Choose a variety that is suitable for Central Texas. Crape Myrtle, Anacacho Orchid

Tree, Desert Willow, Goldenball Leadtree, Texas Mountain Laurel and Texas Redbud all do well in our area and they make wonderful accent trees.

These trees are drought tolerant and except for the Goldenball Leadtree, they are deer resistant. The Crape Myrtle has the longest bloom time and if you choose to plant this tree select a mildew-resistant variety.

When planting your tree dig a shallow hole, wider but no deeper than the container that the tree is in. Do not add soil amendments to the soil that you place back into the hole. Doing so will result in a vase effect that the tree roots will not venture from. Create a well two feet away from the tree to help prevent runoff when you water. Make sure the tree is well watered before you plant it and keep it moist the first year as it adapts to its new location. If the tree is 6 feet high or taller you may want to gently secure it to stakes for the first year. Apply 4 inches of mulch around the tree to prevent weeds, temperature extremes and water evaporation.

Research the spread and drip line also before you plant to make sure there is enough room to grow. You don't want to cut the tree down in the future!

Have any questions about gardening in Central Texas? Contact ask.bcmga@gmail.com

In the photo: Plant a small blooming tree in remembrance of a special person or event. Select a tree that does well in Central Texas such as a mildew-resistant Crape Myrtle.

