

**Bell County Master Gardener's
Tip of the Week
By Jann Dworsky
“Queen’s Wreath—Pink Profusion”**

Back in the 70’s my husband’s grandmother, Jessie, had a beautiful Queen’s Wreath vine on a large trellis about 8 feet tall and it was covered with masses of cheerful pink blooms from mid-summer until frost. This Queen’s Wreath was amazing to me and I asked her for a start.

That try was not successful because I was unable to dig to get the tiny root bulb that is necessary for a small Queen’s Wreath to live. A one or two year old vine has a root bulb about the size of the end of your little finger. As they get bigger and older the roots grow deeply underground with many bulbs that become the size of sweet potatoes.

About 15 years later I bought two Queen’s Wreaths at a local nursery. They were about two inches tall. Even though they were tiny and far from the thick 8 feet tall beauty of Jessie’s, I was hopeful. I planted them in loamy soil and they grew slowly for about three years.

Queen’s Wreath is known by many names. The botanical name is *antigonon leptopus*, but it is also known as Coral Vine or Rosa de Montana. Queen’s Wreath is deciduous, meaning it dies back to the ground with the first hard freeze, but comes back vigorously in the late winter or early spring.

My vines are now about 10 years old. They have done well and have grown on the trellis across the front of the house with each plant stretching about 10 feet. They provide both shade and beauty in the heat of the summer.

The late summer and fall display of blooms is breathtaking and gives us curtains of beautiful pink blooms. Bees are attracted to the delicate flowers and the hum of dozens of contented honeybees is peaceful. Patience is required with this slow but steady grower, Queen’s Wreath.

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

