

Bell County Master Gardener
Tip of the Week
By Mary Lew Quesinberry
Special Gardens

If you love to tour gardens, a drive to the Salado United Methodist Church will be worth the trip. My husband and I were lucky to catch garden guild member Bobbie Carroll tending the chapel garden. Mrs. Carroll and seven other guild members designed and maintain this charming cottage garden. The historic, 150 year old chapel is adjacent to the church. The chapel garden is almost one year old and features many plants you would find in your grandmother's garden. The plantings include purple verbena, periwinkle, Confederate Jasmine, Mexican Firebush, Mahonia, Skullcap, Lamb's Ear, Lantana, Zinnia, Mexican Heather, Damianita, Crape Myrtle, Thyme, Pavonia, Esperanza, old fashioned Cockscomb, Belinda's Dream rose and vines like Queen's Wreath and Passion Vine.

In Temple, visit Scott and White Hospital's Healing Garden. This special garden has several soothing water features, statuary, benches, a boulder engraved by local artist Crystal Fisher and memory pavers donated by supporters of the garden. Its mostly monochromatic color theme with plantings of ferns, bi-color iris and lirioppe adds to the serenity of this garden.

Another special garden is located at the Church of the Visitation in Westphalia. There are two beautiful gardens, one at the Old School Museum and the other at the old convent, which is now used as a reception center. Master Gardener Nancy Duskocil planned and maintains the gardens. The wide, generous beds are lushly planted with Knockout roses, Mexican Feather Grass, Alyssum, Crape Myrtles, Indian Hawthorne, Italian Cypress, and Burford Holly. This garden has good garden bones and is beautiful year round.

You never know when you will come across a living work of art in the form of a beautiful garden. These special gardens are lovingly planned and tended by selfless individuals who understand the power of gardens to heal and relax in.

In the photo: This crested Cockscomb grows readily from seed and often reseeds in the Salado United Methodist Church chapel garden. It can be dried and used in bouquets.

