

Fort Bend County Master Gardeners and You

By Sandra Gray, Fort Bend County Master Gardener

Have you ever wished you had an expert at hand to help with your garden and landscape questions? You do! Fort Bend County Master Gardeners (FBCMGs) are here for you. All FBCMGs are trained gardening enthusiasts who have gone through specific horticulture training. Each FBCMG must commit to a performing at least 50 volunteer hours and continuing our education each year. Master Gardeners are found throughout the United States, but this article will focus on the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners.



FBCMGs' primary mission is to educate Fort Bend County residents about horticulture with science-based information. We are here to help you. One of the ways we do this is through our Hotline, staffed by volunteers most weekday mornings who answer your horticultural questions. Got a sick plant, an unidentified pest, or a question that's bugging you? Call or email us. There is no fee for this service, and it is open to all Fort Bend County residents. Here is our Hotline contact information:

Website: <https://fbmg.org/ask-a-master-gardener/>

Email: FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu

Phone: 281-341-7068

Fax: 281-633-7070

Another way we help to educate our Fort Bend County residents is through our Speaker's Bureau, which provides guest speakers to garden clubs, community organizations, and other groups. With over 40 different topics from butterfly gardening to wildscapes, our speakers can surely offer something for your meeting. You can see the topics offered and submit a request for a speaker at <https://fbmg.org/speakersbureau/>. We offer this service for Fort Bend County residents at no charge; however, we are happy to accept donations in support of our educational activities. Fort Bend County Master Gardeners is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.



If you need gardening inspiration or if you want to see plants that grow well in our area, visit the Fort Bend County Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens at 1402 Band Road, Rosenberg, TX. Walking through these four acres of gardens you can take a self-guided tour of our 14 different gardens. Our Demonstration Gardens are open seven days a week from daylight to dark. You can also make arrangements for guided group tours by contacting us at <https://fbmg.org/contact/> or calling us at 281-342-3034.

Have you ever bought a plant only to take it home and kill it because you didn't know how to care for it? Three times a year, FBCMGs hold special sales. In late winter, we hold the Fruit and Citrus Tree Sale (our next one will be February 8, 2020!). In spring and again in fall, we have our Vegetable and Herb Plant Sales. The proceeds from these sales help to fund our educational activities. However, the real benefit to you is not just the plants you can



purchase, but the expert guidance you can obtain from the master gardeners on hand who can answer your questions about how to plant, nurture, and harvest your fruits, vegetables, citrus, and herbs. Check out our website and social media for more information.

Stay up to date on horticultural information through our Facebook page, our webpage, and Instagram that includes timely posts about things you need to know about your garden throughout the year. You can learn about specific plants, common pest problems and how to handle them, how to care for your turf, common gardening terms, upcoming events, urgent disease outbreaks and how to cope, and so much more. We encourage you to follow us on Facebook at Fort Bend Master Gardeners (@FortBendCountyMasterGardeners), visit our webpage at <http://fbmg.org> or follow us on Instagram (fortbendmastergardeners). We look forward to serving you!

Photo credits: Julie Evett