



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

HENDERSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS (HCMG)

WEEKLY NEWS ARTICLE

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Plant the Red, White and Blue

By Lydia Holley



Want to show some patriotism for the Fourth of July, or summer in general? How about a red, white, and blue planting scheme?

Red flowers for full sun are easy to find. Geraniums, salvias, cannas, roses, and cock's comb (*Celosia*) will stand out in a landscape or in a container.

Add touches of white with Diamond Frost® euphorbia, Shasta daisies, petunias, pentas, and roses. Shasta daisies (*Leucanthemum xsuperbum*) come in several different varieties, with various types of petals, from single to frilly double, and heights from two to four feet. You may also want to try oxeye daisies (*Leucanthemum vulgare*). White roses come in almost any size, from large climbers to short shrubs. One of the most prolific blooming small white rose bush in my garden is Innocencia Vigorosa®. Growing only one to two feet high, it is suitable for a container planting.

Blue is a bit trickier to find, but you can't go wrong with cape plumbago (*Plumbago auriculata*). This South African native has been designated a Texas Superstar®. Another plant commonly called plumbago, *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*, is a low-growing ground cover, but it also has stunning blue flowers. Blue daze *Evolvulus* is another short option, and so is flossflower, or *ageratum*. Veronicas, or speedwell, can add a bit of variety with their spiky form. You might also wish to try blue fescue, Russian sage (*Perovskia*), or one of the blue salvias, such as *Salvia guaranitica* 'Black and Blue'.

Although the above varieties will work well in sun, there are some patriotic-colored options for shade, too. Blue hydrangeas are a natural. Gardenias or variegated hostas will suffice for the color white. You might want to try aztec grass, which looks a lot like liriope but in addition to its white-striped foliage, it sports white berries. Red flowers for shade that bloom at this time of year are a bit harder to find. Try begonias to give your displays just the right touch of red.

To finish off your plantings, be certain to add some red, white, and blue-striped bows or miniature American flags to your containers or in-ground displays.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com, or visit txmq.org/hendersonmq.

