

# America's 250th in Your Garden

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The Semi quincennial, or 250th Anniversary, of the Declaration of Independence is being observed in 2026 with events throughout the US. Consider having your garden join the celebration with patriotic or heirloom plantings.

Heirloom plants or trees are one way of commemorating the event. Heirloom seed collections specifically for this year's anniversary are available from major seed growers and several historical gardens. For trees, think of one that will live on to the next milestone. Perhaps a native White Oak (*Quercus alba*), which supports hundreds of native insect and bird species, and becomes a living legacy.

For a red, white, and blue palette, look for annuals to fill flower beds and containers. Expect to see a few more flowers in patriotic colors at garden centers this Spring. Another option is perennials, including native plants, which bloom in red, white, or blue. Some plants to consider are lantanas, petunias, impatiens, geraniums, salvias, monardas, and lobelias, which offer varieties with patriotic colored blooms.

Think thriller (tall), filler (wide), and spiller (trailing) when planning patriotic planters. Many plant combinations can give you the red, white, and blue, with maybe a little hint of "fireworks," to celebrate 250 years.



## References:

Planning for the Red, White, and Blue Part 1 and Part 2

<https://mgnv.org/demonstration-gardens/planning-for-the-red-white-and-blue-part-1-2/>

<https://mgnv.org/mg-in-the-garden/planning-for-the-red-white-and-blue-part-2-2/>

Patriotic Gardens: How to Plant a Red, White, and Blue Garden

<https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-210/426-210.html>