

Patriotic planting project

by Susan Tindall

Here's a different idea for marking this year's special national events – the Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics. If you start planning now, you could have a fantastic patriotic display in your garden by the summer!

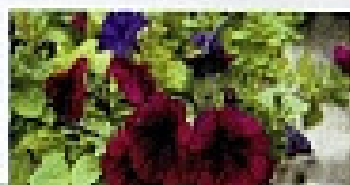
Combine classic red, white and blue with golden shades to make these colours glow. You could plant one or more containers, or even a whole border. Thinking in advance about the colours that you want and the effects that you hope to achieve will make all the difference to your display.

You could give slightly different treatments to separate areas or containers – for example, plant three containers, one with gold and red, another with gold and blue and the last with gold and white. Or have a container with pastel shades and another with bold colours. Think of red petunias or fiery salvias, trailing blue lobelia or dusky blue verbenas, white Angelonia, or Calibrachoa with its trailing white-cupped

flowers. For splashes of gold the daisy flowers of marigolds (*Calendula* and *Tagetes*) or tickseed (*Bidens*) work well.

Do include foliage plants too – blue grasses such as *Festuca* 'Elijah', golden *Heucherella* 'Stoplight', or red-leaved coleus (*Solenostemon*), perhaps in combination with white-flowered begonias. If you use foliage plants such as grasses or *Heuchera* they can be retained for use in following years as a base for different colour schemes.

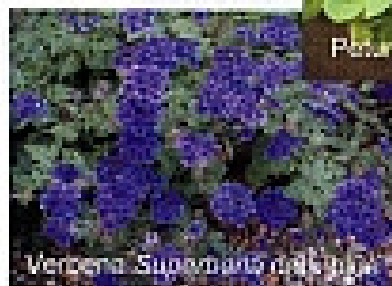
For a permanent reminder of the Jubilee you could plant a rose such as *Rosa* 'The Queen Elizabeth'. Introduced in 1954, it has silver-pink flowers and the plant can reach an impressive two metres in height. You could also celebrate the year of the Queen's accession with a plant that was introduced in 1952: *Achillea* 'Coronation Gold', which is a golden form of the fernleaf yarrow. This has flat heads of golden flowers and stands around a metre high. Enjoy your plants!



Petunia burgundy



Calibrachoa white/silver



Verbena Superdwarf blue



Tagetes Erecta Simba



Lobelia Lagopus trailing blue

You can look up plants in the Plant Finder on the Hare Hatch Sheeplands website at: www.harehatchsheeplands.co.uk

Joy of Plants will soon be publishing an iPhone app version of their Plant Finder – we'll let you know when it's available.

Article and photos: Susan A. Tindall at Joy of Plants
www.joyofplants.com

