

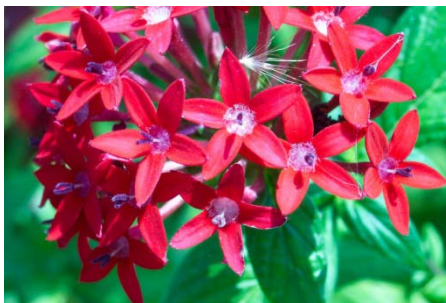
## **FACT SHEET: Red, White and Blues**

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FLORIDA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING™ AGENT

This time of year, May, June and July, I'm thinking about a patriotic landscape of red, white and blue. Red is a great color for adding an eye-catching pop in your landscape. Red Penta (also available in white) and Pineapple sage are good choices. Both are fast growers and attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

Great selections for white flowering plants include Scorpion tail, Mandevilla and Almond bush. Scorpion tail blooms all year on what appears to be the curved tail of a scorpion. It is a Florida native attractive to bees, butterflies and birds. The white Mandevilla vine blooms profusely most of the year. This is the vine on our arbor in the Bette S. Walker Discovery Garden at the Extension office - photo below. Almond bush blooms repeatedly from late spring through late fall, is a shrub that needs full sun and can grow to 8 feet plus. The scent is absolutely amazingly almond!

Blue selections can include Indigo Spires, a fast growing Salvia attracting butterflies and hummingbirds, and Plumbago, a butterfly attracting bush has blue or white flowers all year. Blue daze, a ground cover, shows off its blue flowers in spring to summer and needs partial shade. Maria Carver, Extension Community Association Outreach program coordinator, horticulturist and plant enthusiast says "Blue daze and Plumbago are two of my favorites. Both have true blue flowers which are very rare in nature."



Penta-red



Pineapple sage-red



Mandevilla vine-white



Plumbago-blue

You can add these plants to your landscape temporarily using the pot-in-a-pot method. Select the location for your colorful plants and dig the hole. Place an empty plastic pot of the same size in the hole. Leave the plant you purchased in its plastic pot, placing it inside the pot you put in the hole. If you want to change out these plants with the season, remove the potted plant and place it elsewhere, replacing it with a plant that will fit into your next holiday theme.

Add some sparkle to your landscape and celebrate our independence! More gardening information is available at <http://hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu> and <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>. For horticultural assistance, contact the Hillsborough County Extension Office, 744-5519, or visit us at 5339 County Road 579, Seffner, FL 33584. Master Gardeners are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. We can help!