

# Plant a garden that flies flag

Author plots spread of red, white and blue

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Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County writer Dave Sandersfeld has a red, white and blue-print for a garden that celebrates patriotism and the U.S. flag.

Sandersfeld published his guide, "The Old Glory Garden" as part of the American Specialty Garden Series.

In his booklet, Sandersfeld offers a plan for the flag shaped and colored garden, with an array of blooming plants listed that will thrive in different zones.

He also offers snippets of history and myth attached to some of the plants he suggests.

He starts with a set of suggested flowers – including blue monelli, red dianthus and sedum, and paper-white daisies.

But he goes on to offer an array of 70 flowers in all, organized by their use for stripes and stars. The list includes the Latin names, climate zones, planting and germination facts, and seeding habits.

Sandersfeld published the guide after 9/11, hoping to celebrate bravery and patriotism in the face of the horrors of terrorism.

"For the world to live in fear is what those terrorists wanted," he wrote. "However, undaunted Americans have turned to each other under the possession or wrap of the red, white and blue historic flag."

Sanderfeld said while the publication came out after 9/11, the root of the idea goes back to the Vietnam era.

He said it came to him then, as he thought about his buddies who didn't make it back from Nam.

Seeking a tribute to them, he decided to plant flag gardens on their graves.

As he notes in the guide, "Many Americans stand up for democracy and personal liberties day in and day out. The flag should be a symbol of strength and freedom communicated between generations."

*"The Old Glory Garden" was published by Mead Publishing and Gifts in Nampa, Idaho, and also is available at the Grant County Library.*