

# Favorite fall perennials

There are some perennials that I can't live without because of their fabulous late summer and fall performance. Plant them in your garden now because you will overlook them at garden centers come spring. Russian sage and various species of Aster, Salvia and Nepeta are prolific, but they are only mediocre anchor plants compared to some of the other species that come on this time of the year. Rudbeckia hirta, the common black-eyed Susan, is ubiquitous in the late summer garden, not to mention that there are dozens of Rudbeckia species. All a useful in the garden but my favorite is Rudbeckia subtomentosa "Henry Eilers". Naturally forming bouquets of gold flowers with quilled petals top 5-foot plants. It's a great cut flower, too, that you can easily arrange with a few other long-stemmed blooms to make a lovely arrangement for the table.



JENEEN WICHE

combinations in the garden is that of Salvia 'Black and Blue' and Solidago 'Fireworks'. 'Fireworks' is a cultivated variety of golden rod that reaches about 3 feet in height and has an arching spray of yellow booms reminiscent of fireworks. The bright yellow against a backdrop of the equally tall Salvia 'Black and Blue' spikes is the perfect primary color combination. Both are vigorous plants and will fill a large border efficiently and beautifully. Another bold presence and underused plant in the garden is Boltonia. Plant Boltonia asteroides in a sunny moist spot and it will prove to be quite robust. Boltonia is reminiscent of an aster, as its botanical name suggests, but much airier in appearance, the blooms appear white tinged with pink and last until frost. There is a bit of a theme here, it seems, because all of the late summer bloomers that I love are really tall perennials. The giant sunflower, or Helianthus

giganteus, is similar in stature to "Henry Eilers" but has lemon-yellow clusters of flowers reminiscent of the daintiest annual sunflower you can think of. One non-native aster has found a welcomed spot in our garden, the Tatarian aster. Aster tataricus is a good deal taller than the native species, up to 8 feet in height. The foliage is lance-shaped and compact, nestled at ground level; and the erect stems rise above and are topped by loose clusters of lavender to light blue blooms. A fabulous ground cover for late summer performance is the hardy plumbago or Cerastigma plumbaginoides. This low-growing perennial will tolerate sun or shade and can be used in the best or worst of garden locations. It has small dark green foliage that turns red in the fall;

plumbago blue-purple blooms cover the low growing plant beginning in mid-summer until a hard frost. And, why we do not see Lespedeza lining the avenues more is a mystery to me. In full sun, this robust fall bloomer rivals any ornamental grass in its stance. Plus, Lespedeza blooms in pinks and whites and is tough as nails! Also called bush clover, Lespedeza thunbergii is the one to look for, it will reach about 5 feet in height and be covered in arching stems bearing dozens of racemes of pea-like blooms. Don't give up on the mixed border at the end of the season, stake out some of these perennials at your local garden center during their fall sales this year and get them planted so they will be well-established for the 2026 garden.



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ORDINANCE NO. 2025-09  
ORDINANCE FIXING THE TAX RATE AND LEVYING AN AD VALOREM TAX FOR CITY PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF 2025-2026 AND PROVIDING HOW THE FUNDS SO RAISED SHALL BE EXPENDED BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEBANON, KENTUCKY:

SECTION I: There is hereby levied for the tax year 2025 an ad valorem tax of 17.30 cents of each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of taxable property assessed and assessable of every kind, other than tangible personal property and bank deposit taxes, liable to taxation in the City of Lebanon, Kentucky; said levy and all taxes realized therefrom to be used for and solely devoted to the general municipal purposes and expenses of said City.

SECTION II: There is hereby levied for the tax year 2025 an ad valorem tax of 21.43 cents of each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of taxable tangible property assessed and assessable, liable to taxation in the City of Lebanon, Kentucky; said levy and all taxes realized therefrom to be used for and solely devoted to the general municipal purposes and expenses of said City.

SECTION III: There is hereby levied for the tax year beginning January 1, 2026 an ad valorem tax of 24.33 cents on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of fair cash value of motor vehicles assessed and assessable, liable to taxation in the City of Lebanon; said levy and all taxes realized therefrom to be used for and solely devoted to the general municipal purposes of said City. Said tax shall be collected by the Marion County Court Clerk in accordance with applicable statutes of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

SECTION IV: If any section, sub-section, sentence, clause or phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holdings shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

SECTION V: This Ordinance shall take effect upon its second reading, passage and publication.

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ATTEST: Gina N. Wheatley, City Clerk

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