

A fall planting guide for long-lived perennials

By JESSICA DAMIANO
Associated Press

When plants die, we automatically assume we're responsible. Sometimes, we are. But what we might not realize is that, like all living things, plants have a lifespan, and sometimes their time is simply up.

Annuals, of course, complete their entire lifecycles, from seed to death, in one year. Biennials live two years, although they often self-seed. Perennials are those expected to live for two or more years.

Some perennials (delphiniums come to mind) are short-lived. Others, like coneflowers, have moderate lifespans. But some can outlive their gardeners, surviving under the right conditions for 20, 50 or even 100 years. And fall is a great time to plant them.

PEONIES

Peonies (*Paeonia* spp.) are the super agers of the group. The woody shrubs with large, showy springtime blossoms often take a while to take off, but once they do, they're in it for the long haul, easily living 50-100 years and sometimes even longer. These are heirloom



Bearded irises appear in bloom in a front yard on Long Island, N.Y., on May 19, 2024. (JESSICA DAMIANO VIA AP)

plants, often passed down from generation to generation. Plant them in early fall in a sunny spot (with some afternoon shade in the south) in zones 3-9 for a lifetime of blooms.

BEARDED IRIS

Bearded iris can also live for generations. In fact, with proper care, they can literally live forever. Grown from rhizomes planted in late summer or early fall, their roots produce

an endless supply of underground offshoots that continually sprout new life. Dig up and divide clumps every three to five years to prevent crowding, which can lead to root rot and decline, and discard old or dead rhizomes before replanting the newer roots in another sunny spot.

HOSTAS

Hostas can live for more than 50 years in zones 3-9. For the best

results, plant them in spring or fall in rich, slightly acidic soil in a shady spot that gets a bit of morning sun, monitor and protect them from pests like slugs, and divide them every three to five years after their first decade.

Daylilies

Although each daylily (*Hemerocallis* spp.) flower lasts for just one day, the plants often endure 50 years with little care. Plant them in rich, well-draining soil in a

sunny spot. Plant them in rich, well-draining soil in a sunny spot in zones 2, 3-9 or 11, depending on variety. Plant them in early spring or late summer to early fall, and divide clumps every three to five years to rejuvenate the plant (and make more!).

FALSE INDIGO

False indigo (*Baptisia*) can easily exceed 50 years in your zone 3-9 garden. The plants are

slow to establish, taking up to five years to reach maturity, but once established, their long, woody taproot helps them resist drought, frost and just about anything nature can throw their way. They do not, however, like to be disturbed, so select a sunny garden spot carefully and leave them be. Then decide who their next caretaker should be and write them into your will.

Written originally for Lincoln, 'Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing' now revered as Black National Anthem

By COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press

In 34 lines, James Weldon Johnson told of the pain, anguish, frustration, faith and hope that former slaves and their descendants experienced in a land and country they were forced to call home.

He did it in “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing,” a poem that later became a song and is now widely called the Black National Anthem. The original manuscript along with other papers by Johnson, who was Black, are held by the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University.

Johnson wrote “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing” in Jacksonville, Florida, as part of a celebration in 1900 for Abraham Lincoln’s birthday. His brother, John Rosamond Johnson, later composed the music. It first was performed by Black children in a Jacksonville school where James Weldon Johnson was principal.

The song was later adopted by the NAACP and sung at marches and other events during the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Singer Kim Weston performed it in 2001 at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington during the first inauguration of President George W. Bush. It has become a standard in Black churches and in Black History Month programs across the United States.

Yollie Copeland, a licensed tour guide in Jacksonville and owner of Explore Jax Core, says part of the song’s legacy is that after the initial performance, it

was passed from generation to generation.

“Those same children and students (as adults) taught the song to their students,” Copeland says. “James Weldon Johnson writes that he kind of forgot about the song. Decades later they were singing his song. He just couldn’t believe it caught.”

The song’s lyrics tell of perseverance leading to freedom and “liberty” with Lincoln’s 1863 signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed all slaves held in the Confederate states. Lyrics include “Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod felt in the days when hope unborn had died. Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers sighed?”

That verse is followed by “We have come over a way that with tears has been watered. We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered. Out from the gloomy past, ’til now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.”

Jacqueline Lewis, senior minister and public theologian at Middle Collegiate Church in Manhattan, calls “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing” an “American treasure.”

“This is a song about my faith, our faith,” she says. “The faith is in the God whose destination is liberation, the God whose purpose is to free people, all the people. So, I think America could find its hope in this song that is honest about trouble and honest about struggle.”

LEGALS

(First published in The Morning Sun on October 21st, 2026)

RESOLUTION 2026-14

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF A HEARING BEFORE THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF FRONTENAC, KANSAS, AND FIXING A TIME AND PLACE THEREOF, AT WHICH THE OWNER, HIS OR HER AGENT, LIENHOLDERS OF RECORD, OCCUPANTS AND OTHER PARTIES IN INTEREST OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN SAID CITY AND DESCRIBED HEREIN MAY APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE WHY SUCH PROPERTY SHOULD NOT BE FOUND IN VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE 3 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF FRONTENAC

WHEREAS, he enforcing officer of the City of Frontenac, did, on the 23rd day of September 2026, file with the Governing Body of the City of Frontenac, a statement in writing that the property, hereinafter described, is in violation of Chapter 8, Article 3 of the Code of the City of Frontenac.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF FRONTENAC:

A public hearing shall be held on the 9th day of December 2026 before the Governing Body of the City of Frontenac at 6:00 pm at Town Hall, 120 N. Labette St., Frontenac, Kansas, at which the owner, his or her agent, any lienholders of record, any occupant and any other parties in interest, as that term is defined by law, of the property located at:

Abbreviated Description: MEISNITZER 2ND ADDITION, ACRES 1, E1/2 LT 4, BLK 3., Frontenac, Crawford County, Kansas

Commonly known as 4021 Mt. Carmel Rd., Frontenac, Kansas

may appear and show cause why such property should not be found to be in violation of Chapter 8, Article 3 of the Code of the City of Frontenac thereof, with an order to issue to abate or remove a nuisance against the owners, his or her agent, any lienholders of record, any occupant and any other parties in interest. The original hearing scheduled for November 25, 2026 is canceled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this Resolution shall be served on the owners, his or her agents, any lienholder of record, any occupant, and any other parties in interest of such property by certified mail, return receipt requested or by personal service.

ADOPTED this 14th day of October 2026.

Steve Morrison, Mayor

(SEAL)
ATTEST:

Jayme Mjelde, City Clerk

(First published in The Morning Sun on October 21st, 2026)

RESOLUTION 2026-13

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF A HEARING BEFORE THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF FRONTENAC, KANSAS, AND FIXING A TIME AND PLACE THEREOF, AT WHICH THE OWNER, HIS OR HER AGENT, LIENHOLDERS OF RECORD, OCCUPANTS AND OTHER PARTIES IN INTEREST OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN SAID CITY AND DESCRIBED HEREIN MAY APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE WHY SUCH PROPERTY SHOULD NOT BE FOUND IN VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 8, ARTICLE 3 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF FRONTENAC

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C&PC&M CO 1ST ADDITION, BLOCK 16, Lot 5, 7, Frontenac, Crawford County, Kansas

Commonly known as 507 N. Cayuga St., Frontenac, Kansas

may appear and show cause why such property should not be found to be in violation of Chapter 8, Article 3 of the Code of the City of Frontenac thereof, with an order to issue to abate or remove a nuisance against the owners, his or her agent, any lienholders of record, any occupant and any other parties in interest. The original hearing set for November 25, 2026 is canceled.

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Steve Morrison, Mayor

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