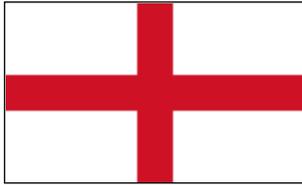


Flying a Flag



St George's
Cross
16th cent.
(England)



St Andrew's
Cross
16th cent
(Scotland)



St Patrick's
Cross
Unknown
origin
(Ireland)



King's
Colours,
or Great
Union Flag,
of 1606-
1707

(Great Britain)

Questions about the display of the Royal Union Flag (Union Jack) are often asked at this time of year. Especially, since two versions are often flown along the Loyalist Parkway.

The original Royal Union Flag was first raised in Canada at the British settlement in Newfoundland after 1610. It is often referred to as the Loyalist Flag as it was the flag flown by the United Empire Loyalists that settled in this part of Ontario in 1783.

The current design of the flag dates from the union of Ireland and Great Britain in 1801. It consists of the red cross of Saint George (patron Saint of England), edged in white, superimposed on the Cross of St Patrick (patron Saint of Ireland), which are superimposed on the Saltire of Saint Andrew (patron Saint of Scotland). Wales, however, is not represented in the Union Flag by Wales's patron saint, Saint David, as at the time the flag was designed Wales was not part of the Kingdom of England.

Flying the Union Jack

Union Flag Royal Union Flag



Union Flag of 1801
1801 (United Kingdom)
Official flag of Canada until 1946

Can I fly a Union Flag?

Yes, it is appropriate to fly both versions of the Union Flag. They go well with our Maple Leaf Flag. Remember, that flag etiquette dictates that when looking at two flags together, the Maple Leaf always goes to the left and the Union to the right. If there are three flags, the Union Jack goes to the left, the Maple Leaf to the Centre and the Union Flag of 1606 goes

to the right. Always remove faded or torn flags immediately.

Canadian Flag

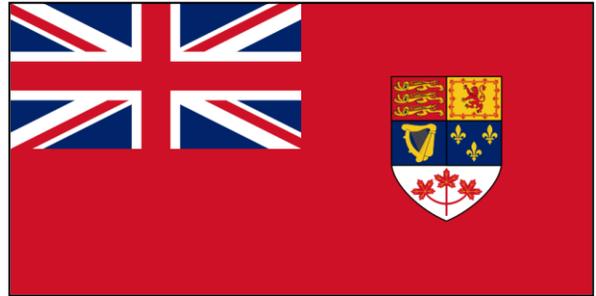


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When three flags are displayed, the National Flag should be at the centre. To an observer facing the display, the second-ranking flag (in order of precedence) is placed to the left of centre, and the other to the right.

A common combination of flags is that of the National Flag of Canada with a Union Jack and a Union Flag of 1606. In such a case, the Union Jack should be on the left, the Canadian flag in the centre and the Union flag of 1606 to the right (to an observer facing the display).

The Red Ensign



Canadian Red Ensign (1957-1965)

Although the Red Ensign was widely used in Canada from the time of Confederation (1867) until the Maple Leaf national flag was adopted in 1964, the Union Flag was the affirmed national symbol from 1904 and was the flag under which Canadian troops fought during the First World War.

The Union Flag maintains its presence in Canada through its incorporation in the provincial flags of Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia.

When flown or displayed in Canada today, the Union Flag serves two purposes. First, it is the national flag of the United Kingdom, and second, it is flown as a symbol of membership in the Commonwealth and allegiance to the Crown as approved by Parliament on December 18, 1964.