

## **Planting and Decorating Guidelines**

In order to maintain the dignity of these sacred spaces, allow for individual personalization and provide safe and efficient maintenance, the following planting and decorating guidelines will be enforced.

Planting and decorating is permitted on the burial side of memorial only, for the entire length of the memorial, and outward up to a maximum of 16" from the front of the memorial. Other than an artificial flower decoration, specifically designed to attach to the top of a memorial, this is the only area where all permitted decorations and plantings may be placed. A bed is to be created so as not to allow grass or weeds to grow up between the decorations. Families are responsible for keeping this area free of grass or weeds. Shredded mulch may be used, no other mulch, shells, stones or materials are permitted. All decorations and plantings should be kept back from the grass line in order to avoid damage from mowing and trimming operations.

Families may place permitted decorations, artificial flowers, cut flowers, or plant annual flowers.

The following items are NOT permitted, shrubbery, hedges, fences, borders, edging or enclosures of any kind, platforms, pavers or stones of any kind, rocks, landscape fabric, boxes, shells, toys, sprinkling cans, receptacles, Shepard's hooks, arbors, urns, pedestals, hanging plants, pinwheels, balloons, glass jars, bottles, tin cans, glassware, crockery or earthenware, nails, spikes or wires.

An exception is made for the low, black, plastic edging, which may be installed flush to the ground and only within the limits of the planting area.

In order to reduce the risk of fire, vigil candle holders are strictly limited to ENCLOSED candle holders with a maximum of 2 holders per memorial. Any more than 2 vigil candle holders or any other type of open flame candle will be removed without notice. Battery powered vigil candles may also be used.

Solar or battery powered lights shall be limited to 2 per memorial.

No planting or decorations shall be permitted which exceed 18" in height, with the exception of a flag and flag holder.

Specific holiday decorations are to be removed 30 days after the holiday. Cemetery staff may remove them anytime after the 30 days.

Should any planting, decoration or other items placed not be permitted, run in contradiction to Catholic practice or Doctrine, or become dilapidated, weathered, diseased, overgrown, cause safety concerns or impede maintenance, it shall be removed, when in the judgment of the Cemetery, such action is necessary. There shall be no notice given nor compensation permitted for removed items. While the cemetery has no obligation to do so, the removed items may be stored for a period of up to 2 weeks to allow the family to claim the items.

When choosing plantings and decorations, families should keep in mind that no planting or decoration is considered permanent. The Cemetery assumes no liability for any loss, damage or theft of any items placed at any lot, grave or memorial nor any damage caused by the same.

Please place all cemetery waste, garbage and old decorations into the garbage receptacles provided throughout the Cemetery

## **Wind and Theft**

When items are blown about, the grounds crew has no choice but to dispose of them as replacement at specific sites is not possible. The Cemetery is not responsible for loss or damage to any flowers, vases, statues, candles, and other such offerings due to theft, wind, or the normal process of work. These are placed in the cemetery at your own risk.

## **Flags**

Small U.S. flags, no larger than 12" x 18" may be placed with an appropriate flag holder. In addition to the U.S. Flag, national flags, military branch of service flags and first responder flags, no larger than 12" x 18", may be placed.

Flags may be displayed year-round but the Cemetery is not responsible for providing or placing any flag. Flags will be removed should they become worn, tattered or unserviceable. Please note the following, National Cemetery Administration Directive 3220 prescribes policy related to displaying, handling, storage and disposition of flags in Veteran Administration National Cemeteries. This directive says, in part, that ". . . graves may be decorated the weekend before Memorial Day and the flags should be removed shortly after Memorial Day. This will result in non-illuminated flags in place during non-daylight hours; however, this is an authorized deviation from the flag code made necessary by logistics." The directive reminds us that flags be treated with dignity and respect, and requires that unserviceable flags be disposed of appropriately ("...in a dignified way, preferably by burning") and that serviceable flags be displayed in a dignified manner.)

## **Cemetery Clean Off.**

At certain periods during the year, seasonal flowers and decorations from the previous season are removed by cemetery staff. Prohibited items may also be removed at these times. The following is a list of approximate dates, but the Cemetery reserves the right to announce additional clean off dates. Please remove any decorations you would like to reuse next season prior to these dates.

- Spring Clean Up- Week of March 1st: All Christmas wreaths, blankets and decorations.
- Easter- Palm crosses are removed approximately one week after Easter
- Fall Clean up – Week of November 15th: Remaining summer plantings.

It is the Cemetery's policy to publish a notice, as a reminder, before the Cemetery conducts seasonal clean off, however, the notice is a courtesy and not required, and these provisions shall govern.

## **Grave Openings and Decorations**

Plantings and decoration may need to be removed to facilitate an interment. Decorations to be removed may be at the site of the interment or adjacent grave or graves. When this occurs, the Cemetery will make every effort to move and replace the plantings and decorations in a timely manner but shall not be responsible for any damage or loss of any planting or decoration in doing so.

## **Crypt Decorations**

Crypt decorations may consist of the following, space permitting. 2 small vases, 4 pictures or cameo photos and 2 religious photos or emblems.

### **Niche Decorations**

Niche decorations may consist of the following, space permitting. 1 small vase, 2 pictures or cameo photos, 1 religious photo or emblem.

### **Approval and Space Permitting**

All permitted decorations are to be approved and installed by the cemetery staff or approved vendors. Given the amount of space taken up by different name configurations, not all crypts and niches will have the same amount of space available for decorations. Decorations should not encroach on the space of adjoining crypts or niches.

Permitted items that have already been placed by family members, if found to be incorrectly placed, installed or a safety risk, may be removed and the family contacted to discuss proper placement and installation.

### **Prohibited Items**

No candles, vigil lights, wreaths, garland, toys, balloons, food, glass containers, ceramic containers, stands, easels, or any other objects shall be permitted on any crypt or niche, on the floor, in front of or on top of any crypt, niche, mausoleum or columbarium. All unauthorized items will be removed by the Cemetery without notice.

No decorations are to be adhered to the crypt or niche fronts, the family assumes all liability for any damage done to any crypt or niche front through the use of any type of tape, glue, or adhesives of any kind and will be responsible for the cost of any cleaning or repair.

### **Cards and Personal Notes**

Signs, greeting cards, personal notes, and such decorations, while not permitted, may be placed under the exception of honoring a special day in the deceased's life. These items MUST be removed within 3 days of placement by the family, or they will be discarded without further notice.

### **Mausoleum Vases**

The use of water in vases is prohibited. Real flowers should be removed as soon as they become unsightly and will be removed by cemetery personnel without notice. All vases are subject to space permitting. Only approved vases/vase holders will be allowed on the crypt/niche. Installation of vases/vase holders will be performed by Cemetery personnel and/or an approved vendor. All items placed in any permanent vases above level C in the Mausoleum will be done by Cemetery personnel only. The changing of flowers by cemetery personnel will be done up to 4 times per year in conjunction with the change of seasons. Decorations should be brought to the Cemetery well in advance of these dates and should be clearly labeled with the name of the deceased as well as the crypt or niche number and tier. The Cemetery shall not be responsible for any decorations that have not been properly labeled. Please contact the cemetery office for specific dates of flower changes and any applicable charges that may apply. Extendable grabbers are also available from the cemetery office for your use in changing your flowers at any time throughout the year. These grabbers should permit simple flower changes from ground level, ladders are not permitted.

### **Ladders and Climbing**

No ladders are to be used or brought into the mausoleum; the only ladders used will be by Cemetery personnel. The cemetery will not be liable for any damage of any kind including personal injury for anyone using a ladder in the mausoleum. No climbing allowed in the mausoleum.

### **Mausoleum Photos**

Always contact the cemetery in advance prior to ordering or placing any type of photographic image on a memorial, monument, crypt, or niche front, as all images must be approved by the Cemetery.

Photos should be of the permanent, cameo type, installed by the cemetery or approved vendor. While discouraged, regular photos, up to the limit set forth, may be placed on the crypt and niche fronts. Photo size may be no larger than 3" x 5". The family assumes all liability for any damage done to any crypt or niche front through the use of any type of tape, glue, or adhesives of any kind and will be responsible for the cost of any cleaning or repair.

### **Lettering and Emblems**

Crypts and Niche lettering and emblems are purchased through the cemetery. Please contact the cemetery office for current lettering and inscription pricing as well as available emblems and the cost for the emblem and/or the installation fee.

### **Cemetery Clean off.**

At certain periods during the year, seasonal flowers and decorations from the previous season are removed by cemetery staff. Prohibited items may also be removed at these times. The following is a list of approximate dates, but the Cemetery reserves the right to announce additional clean off dates. Please remove any decorations you would like to reuse next season prior to these dates.

- Spring Clean Up- Week of March 1st: All Christmas wreaths, blankets and decorations.
- Easter- Palm crosses are removed approximately one week after Easter
- Fall Clean up – Week of November 15th: Remaining summer plantings.

It is the Cemetery's policy to publish a notice, as a reminder, before the Cemetery conducts seasonal clean off, however, the notice is a courtesy and not required, and these provisions shall govern.