



Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Flower Policy

These regulations are established and enforced in conjunction with National Cemetery Administration guidelines. The policy was developed to demonstrate the utmost respect for these hallowed grounds and to ensure the continued perpetual care of the cemetery. **The Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System (MVMCS) is not responsible for theft, loss, or breakage of any items left on cemetery grounds.**

Day of the Interment:

Floral displays utilizing natural flowers in non-glass containers may be placed on the day of interment to remain for a period not to exceed **three** days. At columbarium niches, flowers may be placed on the ground in front of the niche. As part of their perpetual-care responsibilities, cemetery personnel may remove flowers before the three-day period if they become withered, faded, or otherwise unsightly.

Flowers on existing graves:

Fresh-cut flowers may be placed year-round, either on the gravesite or in an in-ground vase. For columbarium niche burials, flowers may be placed in front of the niche on the ground or in the attached flower vase. Attached flower vases are not provided by the MVMCS. They can be purchased through the respective Cemetery Association. **Artificial flowers are permitted only during the winter months, from October 10 to April 15. During this period, artificial flowers may be placed on gravesites, in in-ground vases, or in front of columbarium niches or in their attached flower vases.**

Memorial Day:

Floral displays and potted plants in non-breakable containers are permitted beginning **seven** days before Memorial Day and through **seven** days following Memorial Day. Potted plants must be in containers and may not exceed **eight** inches in diameter. Plants left on graves may be planted by cemetery personnel in the gardens throughout the cemetery grounds.

Holiday Wreaths:

Fresh or artificial wreaths may be placed on gravesites or columbarium niches beginning November 1 and will be removed at the discretion of cemetery personnel. Wreaths may not be secured to headstones or niche covers. Wreath stands greater than 26 inches in height are not permitted. **Wreaths with exposed metal are not permitted.**

U.S. Flags:

U.S. Flags will be placed on gravesites and columbarium niches by the designated veterans' organizations for Memorial Day. U.S. Flags are not permitted on graves at any other time. The Cemetery's flag provides year-round honor to all veterans interred at the cemetery.

Unauthorized Decorations:

Items not specifically permitted above are not permitted on gravesites, at columbarium niches, or elsewhere on cemetery grounds. Examples include, but are not limited to, balloons, pinwheels, beverage containers, permanent plantings, statues, vigil lights, coins, stones, flag holders, flags or pennants other than the U.S. Flag (see above), support stands of any kind (except for holiday wreaths), breakable objects of any kind, and commemorative items. Unauthorized items will be promptly removed, dated, and stored by cemetery personnel for two weeks should the family choose to claim them. After two weeks, any unclaimed items will be disposed of. At no time may items be affixed to headstones, markers, or niche covers.