

Montana State Veterans Cemetery

-Gravesite Floral and Decorations Policy

The Montana Veterans' Affairs Division operates and maintains the state veteran's cemetery program to **National Shrine Standards**, as developed and overseen by the National (veterans) Cemetery Administration. The Montana State Veterans' Cemetery's floral and decorations policy complies with National Shrine Standards.

1. **FRESH CUT FLOWERS** are allowed at any time for placement on gravesites in the Mt. State Veterans Cemetery. Cemetery personnel will remove live flowers from gravesites when they are no longer a beautification.
2. **LIVE POTTED PLANTS** will be permitted on graves for the 10-day period before and after Easter Sunday, Christmas and Memorial Day.

NOTE: Please keep in mind that our cemetery is relatively windy and unsecured flowers are often blown off gravesites, and that deer routinely eat live flowers.

3. **ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS** are permitted when mowing and trimming are not being performed – generally between October and April.
4. **GLASS VASES AND OTHER ITEMS** are **not** permitted due to the inevitable breakage, and accompanying grounds keeping problems and safety issues. All glass vases/items will be removed immediately by cemetery staff.
5. **CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND GRAVE BLANKETS** no longer than 2'x3' are permitted during the Christmas season (Dec 1-Jan 20), and then must be removed.
6. **AMERICAN FLAGS** may be placed on gravesites in timeframes in accordance with National Cemetery Administration (NCA) flag policy, which is based on Title 54, United States Code or the Federal Flag Code; Title 38 United States Code, section 2403(c); and Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, section 1.9 and 1.10. Authorized timeframes are:
 - a. Memorial Day, Flag Day and Veterans Day
 - b. Mother's Day and Father's Day Thursday before until Sunday. Cemetery staff will remove on Monday.
7. **UNAUTHORIZED DECORATIONS** include: Statues, vigil lights, any glass object, any commemorative items, memorabilia, pinwheels, balloons, shepherd hooks, stuffed animals/objects, bird feeders, chimes and other miscellaneous items that do not comply with National Shrine Standards. Unauthorized decorations will be removed and taken to the cemetery's operations building for pickup. If not claimed within four weeks, the items will be deposited of.
8. **PLEASE UNDERSTAND** This cemetery is committed to providing its interred veterans and family members the utmost dignity and respect, as reflected in and required by National Shrine Standards. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.