



## TOWN OF CLAYTON

### PUBLIC WORKS – PROPERTY MAINTENANCE DIVISION - CEMETERY

## Cemetery Flower/Decoration Policy

The Town of Clayton understands the need for families to show their love and remembrance for those interred in its' cemeteries through the placement of floral offerings at the gravesite.

While beautiful, long-lasting artificial floral arrangements impact the Town's ability to perform timely lawn maintenance. It is not possible to first remove flowers, mow the grass, and then replace flowers in their proper place; errors are likely to occur. In addition to on-going lawn maintenance concerns, storm events are likely to displace flower arrangements.

The following guidelines regarding flower placement and removal have been developed in order to preserve the aesthetic beauty of our cemeteries. In addition, these guidelines will help to insure the safety of all who visit our cemeteries as well as those who maintain them.

### Artificial Flowers

Artificial flowers are permitted on gravesites year- round, but are subject to removal by Town staff when they become soiled, weathered, or displaced by a storm event.

### Fresh Flowers

Fresh cut flowers will be removed by Town staff approximately two weeks after being placed on a gravesite.

### Funeral Flowers

Wreaths, flowers, or other floral decorations (including the containers, stands or the like in which they are contained and/or displayed) left at the gravesite at the time of burial will be removed and disposed of by cemetery maintenance employees approximately two weeks after interment. The cemetery is not liable for floral arrangements, baskets, or stands left at the gravesite.

### Holiday Decorations

Holiday decorations may be placed at the gravesite 15 days prior to, and left up to 15 days after, the holiday. American flags are permitted for the Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and July 4th holidays under this same schedule. Families planning to reuse holiday decorations or flags should plan to remove them before the end of the 30-day period.

### Decorating Restrictions

To preserve the dignity of the cemetery, items placed on gravesites must be floral in nature. Commemorative, ornamental, and religious artifacts are prohibited. Night lights, votive candles, crosses, windmills, toys, statues, flags, flag poles, globes, bird feeders, flower poles, shells, cans, jugs, bottles, benches, and all other ornamental objects will be removed from graves. These items create the potential for injury to patrons and employees.

The Town maintenance staff, at their discretion, may remove and/or discard any items considered to be a mowing or safety hazard.

Note: The Town of Clayton **assumes no responsibility** for items left on gravesites. Due to the open nature of the grounds, we cannot prevent theft, vandalism, or the effects of nature. Anyone caught removing items from gravesites not their own will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.