

## Questions & Answers: Can I Plant Flowers or Shrubs in the Cemetery? What Can I Put On A Gravesite?

Churchyards, especially old ones like ours, owe much of their beauty to the plantings and trees, like the venerable cedars with their magical resurrection fern, the stately magnolia and the sasanquas. The loss of any tree or shrub is keenly felt. That it's often due to age, construction or the threat of damage to buildings, grounds or gravesites doesn't make the loss easier to bear. Careful thought must be given to what can be planted and where. For this reason, the approval of the Cemetery Committee must be obtained before any planting can be done. The Cemetery Covenants also require the approval of the Cemetery Committee before trees, shrubs or plants can be trimmed or removed.

The placement of live cut flowers, plants or wreaths on gravesites, especially at times that are meaningful to a family, are welcome, comforting and add to the beauty of the churchyard. But, remember to remove them when they wilt or die. The Cemetery Committee has the authority to remove anything from the cemetery, including flowers, potted plants, wreaths, etc. when they become wilted, the greenery turns brown or they die. And finally, no artificial flowers or arrangements are to be placed within the cemetery. However, occasionally artificial flowers or arrangements are placed by individuals, or delivered by florists who are not familiar with the cemetery guidelines. Artificial funeral arrangements and wreaths should be removed within a reasonable period of time following the burial.