

KEEPING GREEN LAWN BEAUTIFUL



A GUIDE TO DECORATIONS
AND PLANTINGS AT
GREEN LAWN CEMETERY

Revised 2022



OTHER RESOURCES

- Rules and Regulations of Green Lawn Cemetery (available online and at our office)
- Green Lawn Cemetery Board of Trustees, 1000 Greenlawn Ave., Columbus OH 43223

DID YOU KNOW?

- First burial was in July of 1849
- Ohio's second largest cemetery
- Over 155,000 burials
- Seven Veterans' Sections
- Huntington Chapel dedicated 1903
- Dozens of private mausoleums
- Many options for cremated remains are available
- The cemetery is both an Audubon Important Bird Area and a certified arboretum
- A portion of sales revenue is placed in endowment to ensure the future care of the cemetery
- Active sales are expected to continue for another 100 years!

GENERAL INFORMATION

This guide is meant to be a quick reference to common questions regarding decorations and other related rules.

It is not meant to supersede the current version of the full Rules and Regulations of Green Lawn Cemetery, which take precedence, and the Green Lawn Cemetery Association reserves the right to make changes to these rules, policies, and regulations without notice as it deems necessary and appropriate. The cemetery operator and security are empowered by the association to interpret and enforce these rules as necessary.

Green Lawn Cemetery is private property and the association reserves all rights including limiting or barring visitation.

- ◆ Drones are not permitted
- ◆ Respectful photography is permitted
- ◆ Dogs must be leashed at all times
- ◆ Do not leave valuables unattended or in vehicles
- ◆ No hunting or release of animals of any kind
- ◆ It is **illegal** to spread or leave cremated remains in the cemetery without making arrangements. Violators can be prosecuted.

GOALS

Our goals in creating rules, regulations, and policies are:

- ◆ The safety of our staff and guests
- ◆ Maintaining beautiful and dignified grounds
- ◆ Preservation of cemetery grounds, buildings, monuments, and features
- ◆ Protection and preservation of our wildlife habitat and treescape
- ◆ Protecting the interests of the cemetery
- ◆ Customer satisfaction

HOW TO GET A MONUMENT CLEANED, REPAIRED, OR RESET

If a monument or Memorial has fallen, sunken, or is crooked, open a work order at the office and this type of work is typically done at no charge

Memorials and monuments can also be cleaned, ask the office for an estimate to have cleaning done. *NOTE: Stone and metal may seem impervious, but improper cleaning techniques or chemicals can stain or damage your Memorial or its engraving. We strongly encourage allowing the cemetery to do this work.*

If your Memorial is damaged please report this to the office. The cemetery is not responsible for damage unless it can be determined it was caused through cemetery negligence. If it was we will repair or replace. Other damage we can often repair for a fee or can help you find a reputable restoration company to have the work completed.



GENERAL RULES

- ◆ Only grass may be planted on top of the grave and graves will not be covered with mulch, gravel, etc.
- ◆ Burial flowers will be left approximately a week after the service.
- ◆ Shepherds hooks and other décor that may create a safety hazard are not allowed and will be removed immediately.
- ◆ Glass vases, food and drink, bottles, stone chips, fencing, lot enclosures, or any edging materials are not permitted around monuments, memorials or cemetery lots.
- ◆ Nothing will be attached to any tree or other feature.
- ◆ Decorations with batteries or solar batteries or that light up at night are not permitted.
- ◆ No candles other than fully enclosed cemetery candles.
- ◆ Plantings that encroach on adjacent lots may be trimmed or removed by cemetery personnel.
- ◆ No balloons are allowed to be released or left on gravesites - balloons and similar items that may blow into the tree tops will be removed immediately.
- ◆ Flowers, plants, or decorations that have become unsightly will be removed.
- ◆ Clean up will occur continuously as mowing and other maintenance occurs. The cemetery reserves the right to clean up any time displays are unsightly or unsafe. During the winter holidays seasonal decorations that are within the rules and remain in good shape may be left until January.
- ◆ No toys, lawn ornaments, or frivolous decorations are permitted.
- ◆ Decorations not specifically allowed on the lot types below are not permitted.
- ◆ Cemetery management may amend rules & regulations as deemed necessary for public safety and grounds maintenance.

FLUSH INDIVIDUAL MEMORIAL LOTS, SPACES, AND SECTIONS

- ◆ Permanent adornments and plantings are not allowed on flush memorial lots.
- ◆ An in ground vase as part of a Memorial installation will be permitted. It must be installed with a stone base. However, flowers may be removed and vase put in vase holder for grass mowing.

RAISED OR UPRIGHT INDIVIDUAL MEMORIAL SPACES

- ◆ Flower planting (no shrubs) between memorials is allowed only when the same person owns two or more consecutive spaces. Planting is permitted between those spaces, but will be removed if not maintained. All planting should be in a prepared bed and maintained by the lot owner or it may be trimmed during the course of regular maintenance.
- ◆ Potted plants in disposable containers are allowed, but will be removed when wilted.
- ◆ A flag in a bronze flag holder will be permitted provided it does not interfere with the mowing & trimming of the section.

TREE & SHRUB CARE

If a tree needs trimmed on your lot, open a work order at the office. The cemetery trims trees and shrubs from mid-November through mid-March.

We do not allow individuals to remove or trim trees. A professional gardener may be employed, but must show proper insurance and get a permission from the office prior to starting work.

Only cemetery staff may use herbicides or insecticides on the grounds

GRASS & SEEDING

If your space or lot needs seeding or other special care, open a work order at the office. We will reseed at no charge, and this allows us to keep the grass seed consistent in the section. Seeding is best in the spring and fall.

If your space or lot needs mowing or trimming, open a work order in the office and we will move it to the top of the list. Often when people mow their own lots they cut too low, killing the grass or allowing weeds to pop up. We mow grass to 3.25-3.5", conforming with cemetery and park guidelines.



MONUMENT LOTS WITH ONLY TWO SPACES

- ◆ Flowers may be planted at the front and ends of the monument only. The bed cannot extend more than 18" from the monument. No fences or edging material will be permitted. Flowers may be removed if not maintained.
- ◆ A flag in a bronze flag holder will be permitted provided it does not interfere with the mowing & trimming of the section

MONUMENT LOTS WITH THREE OR MORE SPACES

- ◆ Shrubs and small ornamental tree plantings are permitted ONLY with prior review and approval of Grounds Superintendent who will review location and species. Any shrub or tree that encroaches on another lot may be removed, and any species on the banned species list will be removed.
- ◆ Flowers may be planted at the front and ends of the monument only. The bed cannot extend more than 18" from the monument. No fences or edging material will be permitted.
- ◆ A flag in a bronze flag holder will be permitted the same as on other sections.

CHAPEL MAUSOLEUM

- ◆ All crypt & niche lettering will be installed by cemetery personnel to insure uniformity. Only cemetery approved vases and emblems are allowed on crypt & niche fronts.
- ◆ At no time will double-faced tape, any type of adhesive or stickers be allowed on crypt or niche fronts.
- ◆ Fresh cut flowers in a vase and potted plants are permitted on flower tables supplied by Green Lawn but will be removed when they become unsightly.
- ◆ Burial flowers will be removed when they become unsightly.
- ◆ During the winter holidays, decorations that otherwise conform to the rules are allowed but will be removed and disposed of seasonally or sooner if they become unsightly.

GARDEN MAUSOLEUMS

- ◆ All crypt & niche lettering will be installed by cemetery personnel to insure uniformity.
- ◆ Only cemetery approved vases and emblems are allowed on crypt & niche fronts.
- ◆ At no time will double-faced tape, any type of adhesive or stickers be allowed on crypt or niche fronts.
- ◆ No glass containers are allowed at any time.
- ◆ Fresh cut flowers and holiday arrangements are permitted, but will be removed when they become unsightly.
- ◆ No permanent pots, planters, plant stands, or vases are allowed for reasons of access and safety.



FLAG HOLDERS

Flag holders allow small flags to be placed beside memorials and are often used to mark the graves of military veterans or first responders. The Green Lawn office can assist you in finding and purchasing an appropriate flag holder for your loved one(s). Flag holders are only permitted on lots or in gardens that allow upright monuments. They are not permitted on spaces reserved for only flush memorials.



Upright Memorial
Section

For an upright monument, the flag should be placed in the front, left corner as you face the memorial. From the memorial's perspective, this is the position of honor being the "right of the line" in military formations. Military sections 28, 51, 71, Soldiers' Circle (section M), and 104 permit flag holders.



Flush Memorial
on a
Monument Lot

Military sections 105 and 125 are flush memorial only sections and do not permit flag holders (flags may be temporarily placed by sticking them into the ground, often these are centered behind the memorial).

On private lots, if the space permits an upright memorial, a flag holder is permitted.



Flush Memorial
Section

If the space only permits a flush memorial a flag holder is not permitted. If the lot has a family monument, the holder may be placed at the corner of the monument in lieu of placing it beside a flush memorial.

As with all decorations, if a flag holder becomes damaged or unsightly due to age it will be removed.



Monument on a Flush
Memorial Lot

Need a flag for your deceased service member? You may pick one up in the office courtesy of Franklin County Veterans Services Office.

Military service records are required for burial in a Veterans Section.

Flush Memorial
Row or Space

The cemetery staff can assist with free or discounted spaces for veterans and in procuring Memorials and other VA benefits.

PLANTING POLICY

Green Lawn Cemetery prides itself in preserving a remnant of Ohio's native mixed-oak forest and being both a registered arboretum and part of an Audubon Important Bird Area. Nature is truly part of what makes Green Lawn a special place, and our policies are designed to ensure that special beauty is maintained.

Please review the rules for decorating lots before you plant anything to make sure you know what type of plants, if any, are allowed on your lot.

If plants are allowed, we strongly encourage you to use native plants suitable for the amount of sunlight your lot receives and taking into consideration that many lots have fairly dry soil and neutral or base soil acidity. Your nursery can recommend appropriate plants, and there are many online guides including suggestions for natives that take the place of many ornamentals.

If you are considering a shrub or tree, it is strongly encouraged that you consult with the cemetery staff who will review your lot and recommend some great choices.

Native or otherwise we want your plants to please you and be compatible with the cemetery.

Below is a list of plants that ARE NOT permitted at Green Lawn. These plants will be immediately removed if found on the grounds:

Non-native Invasive Species (Banned from Planting on Property)

1. Japanese Honeysuckle – *Lonicera japonica*
2. Japanese Knotweed – *Polygonum cuspidatum*
3. Japanese Barberry – *Berberis thunbergii*
4. Autumn Olive – *Elaeagnus umbellata*
5. Buckthorns – *Rhamnus frangula*, *R. cathartica*
6. Purple Loosestrife – *Lythrum salicaria*
7. Common Reed or Phragmites – *Phragmites australis*
8. Reed Canary Grass – *Phalaris arundinacea*
9. Garlic Mustard – *Alliaria petiolata*
10. Multiflora Rose – *Rosa multiflora*
11. Bush Honeysuckles – *Lonicera maackii*, *L. tatarica*, *L. morrowii*
12. Callery Pear – *Pyrus Calleryana* – includes ALL varieties of pear trees
13. Tree of Heaven - *Ailanthus altissima*
14. Burning Bush - *Euonymus alatus*
15. Wintercreeper - *Euonymus fortunei*
16. Bambo - *Bambusoideae*



Green Lawn Cemetery

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