

## *Guidelines for Decorating Gravesites*

*The following policies have been established:*

- \*to preserve the respectful nature of burial sites,*
- \*to prevent injuries to visitors and groundskeepers,*
- \* to efficiently maintain the cemetery grounds,*
- \*to minimize damage to decorations and plantings.*

### **PLANTINGS**

1. Flowers and plants may be planted within one foot on the east side of headstone and in line to the north and south of the headstone or marker.
2. Plantings on the west side of the headstone are prohibited in order to maintain a clear mowing path.
3. The planting of trees, shrubs and bushes are prohibited because they interfere with excavating that is necessary for burials.
4. Please avoid planting perennials, nuisance plants, or ground covers that spread beyond the allowed area for planting.

### **DECORATIONS AND MEMORIAL ITEMS**

Summer decorations may be placed on gravesites between April 1 and October 15

1. Decorations and memorial items including urns and vases must be placed in line, to the north or south, of a headstone or marker so they do not interfere with mowing, trimming, and other maintenance activities.
2. Artificial flowers must be held in a container to prevent contact with maintenance equipment.
3. Shepherd hooks, poles, fences and items made of glass are prohibited.
4. Edgings that are above ground level interfere with mowing and other maintenance activities and will therefore be removed.
5. Rocks are strictly prohibited on gravesites because they present liabilities for groundskeepers and cemetery visitors related to mowing and trimming. Natural material mulches are limited to the permitted planting area around a headstone or marker.
6. Please assist cemetery personnel by clearing gravesites in the fall and spring (if winter decorations are present) so clean up and maintenance can be completed efficiently. Dead or damaged plants and decorations should be removed through regular care.
7. Township personnel place an America flag on the gravesite of U.S. veterans by Memorial Day each year.
8. Special occasion items placed outside the summer and winter dates should be removed after one week.
9. There should be absolutely no digging on cemetery grounds beyond what is necessary to plant flowers on the east side of the headstone.
10. Cremains must be interred (buried) by the Sexton. It is illegal to distribute or spread cremains on public land.

Winter decorations may be placed on gravesites between November 15 and March 1

*The Township is not responsible for theft, vandalism, or damages to plants or decorations caused by weather, vandals or maintenance activities.*

***The Sexton has the authority to determine compliance with policies and will remove any noncompliant items, damaged or unsightly plantings and decorations.***

**THANKS FOR HELPING WITH THE CARE OF THE NEWFIELD TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES**

Contact information may be found on the Township website: [www.newfieldtownship.org](http://www.newfieldtownship.org)