



A letter from the Manager;

Over the summer we discontinued allowing fresh cut flowers in the mausoleums due to the overwhelming number of gnats or phorid flies. Bugs are attracted to damp soil, stagnant water and the packets provided by florists to "keep your flowers fresh", it's sugar, ants love sugar.

We continually get complaints that our staff removed "fresh flowers" that "couldn't be dead yet", maybe they weren't dead when we removed them, but the water may have turned cloudy, slim on the stems or bugs in the water. If one vase of flowers on a table gets bugs the entire table of flowers will have them, it's only a matter of time.


We started allowing flowers back in the mausoleums in September and shortly thereafter the bugs were back, on the tabletops, around the windows, in the niches, flower rooms and most disgustingly in your face. Somerset Hills Memorial Park has always been a beautiful, serene place to not only place your loved one but also to spend time visiting. Waving away bugs from your face and mouth does not lend itself to beauty or serenity.

I know this new policy will not sit well with all, it is my responsibility to consider all visitors, service attendees and the overall condition of the building not just the one or two that want to bring flowers. Please understand the need to no longer allow fresh flowers.

This new policy will go into effect November 1, 2025. Seasonal artificial flowers will be allowed and removed after the holidays or as the seasons change. Floral cards and suncatchers are available for a small fee in the office.

Remember, this is a community mausoleum shared by many. Limit what you bring and put on display, share the space. Large displays will be removed. I must also insist that no alcoholic beverages be consumed or left in the mausoleum.

Thank you for your understanding,


Gina Walker
General Manager
info@shmpcemetery.com