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Yard 'n' Garden

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MEMORIAL DAY FLOWERS

Placing flowers on the graves of loved ones is a common tradition. Here are some tips to follow to help keep the plantings longer and to make them more beautiful.

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A few days before Memorial Day, take the urn or flower baskets to the florist or nurseryman for planting. Flowers freshly set will not be rooted. If you plan ahead a few days, the florist can take more time to plant them carefully.

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Many people have found that a regular contract with the florist or nurseryman is the most satisfactory arrangement. The service of having the urn planted and placed is more than worth any additional charge.

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If you want to do the planting yourself, remember that the soil should be high in organic matter. Soils that dry out easily limit the blooming period. After the plants are set into the planter, cover the soil with wet sphagnum moss.

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Planters will be most attractive if the flowers are planted in combinations that give a variety of color and extend the bloom. It isn't necessary to have all plants blooming at the same time.

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Plants commonly used for cemetery plantings are geranium, dwarf marigold, Persian carpet zinnia, lilliput zinnia, petunia, verbena, lantana and pansies. Some greenery like vinca, asparagus sprengeri or dracaena will add to the effectiveness of the planting.

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