

You can reduce the risk of spreading invasive plants by checking local rules before selecting flowers and keeping seeds, roots, and cuttings under control. Careful cleanup is equally important, since even a small piece of live plant material may take hold somewhere new.

Research plants before placing an order

First, find out where the display will be installed. A species that causes problems in one area may be acceptable in another, so consult your local government, a botanical garden, or an agricultural extension service for current guidance. You can also ask the venue about its requirements, especially if the site is close to a natural area or water.

Look up each plant by its scientific name. Common names may describe several different species, and a supplier's listing might not provide enough detail to identify the material. If you are not sure exactly what a plant is, leave it out of the design and pick an alternative you can identify.

Plants native to the area can be a helpful option, but do not assume that every local species or source is suitable. Check that a plant fits the site, and ask whether it was grown or collected responsibly. Ask your supplier where the plants came from instead of assuming that a plant sold nearby was grown nearby.

Plan the display to keep plant material contained

Consider how weather and the location could move parts of your arrangement. Wind may carry loose seed heads, and rain can wash foliage or soil into drains and waterways. If you cannot contain them securely, avoid plants that have ripe seeds or berries.

These practical choices can help you manage an outdoor display:

- Select plants you can identify and that are not listed as invasive in the area.
- Where possible, use flowers and foliage that do not have mature seeds.
- Leave potted plants in their containers and stop soil from spilling out.
- Fasten stems and decorative materials so they remain where you put them.
- Keep loose plant pieces well away from drains, water, and wild vegetation.

Make your design fit the conditions, not just the look you want. An arrangement in a sheltered spot may withstand a gentle breeze, while an exposed location may call for a more straightforward design. During the event, check the display and pick up any pieces that have come loose.

Clean the site when the event ends

Set aside enough time to clear the installation properly. Pick up stems, petals, berries, soil, and other plant debris, including anything that has spread onto the nearby ground. Before taking containers or transport materials to another location, inspect them for stray plant material.

Use the disposal instructions provided by your local authority, particularly if you discover material from a known invasive plant. Do not leave it in a garden, field, or waterway. If you do not know how to dispose of it, ask the local authority before putting it in compost. Seeds and other plant pieces may survive composting.

Answers to common florist questions

Are cut flowers safe for every outdoor event?

No. Some cut stems may still carry seeds or pieces capable of rooting, so check the plant's identity and condition before using it.

Is it fine to decorate with dried grasses?

Identify the grasses and check for seeds. If you cannot confirm what they are or whether they carry seeds, choose an identified option without seeds.

What should you do if a supplier cannot name a plant?

Do not use it outdoors. Choose another material that comes with a reliable scientific name.

Where can you find out about local restrictions?

Contact your local government or agricultural extension service for guidance that applies to the installation site.

On the same subject: baptism flowers