How to Ask for Sustainable Flower Arrangements

Washington University in St. Louis

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How to Ask for Sustainable Flower Arrangements

To encourage arrangements that align with environmental and social best practices, work with your florist to do the following:

- **Use local/native flowers** when available (within 150 miles of WashU)
  - Sustainable sources for locally grown cut flowers for arranging come from these wholesalers: Urban Buds; Flower Hill Farm; Baisch & Skinner (locally grown Amish flowers available April - October).
  - Fahr Greenhouses grows potted flowers and plants, many suitable as arrangements.
  - When local flowers aren’t available, ask your florist to use third-party **certified, domestically grown flowers** (e.g. Veriflora, Rainforest Alliance, Audubon, Fair Trade).
  - If the locally and domestically grown flowers aren’t available, ask your florist to use **imported flowers that have been sustainably certified** (Veriflora, Florverde, Rainforest Alliance, Audubon, Fair Trade).

- Use reusable containers; return your containers for reuse.

- Compost/recycle the materials from the arrangements when appropriate.

- **Do not use:**
  - floral foam
  - leaf shine chemicals
  - single-use disposable plastics, such as liners and picks

If your florist is not currently on our list of preferred green florists, please encourage them to apply through our [website](#).