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.