

Florists can reduce the spread of invasive plants outdoors by checking local rules and choosing suitable flowers and greenery. Keep seeds, roots, cuttings, and other plant pieces contained, then remove all debris carefully after the event.

Confirm plant choices before ordering

First, find out where the display will be installed. A species that causes problems in one area may be harmless in another. Check advice from the local government, a botanical garden, or an agricultural extension service. Ask the venue about any restrictions, especially if the site is near water or natural habitat.

Look up plants by their scientific names. A single common name can describe several different species, and a supplier's description may not provide enough detail. If you cannot identify a plant reliably, select a different one that you can confirm.

Native plants from the area can be a good place to begin, but do not assume they are right for every display. Make sure they suit the site and were grown or collected responsibly. Ask suppliers where their plants came from. A plant sold locally is not necessarily one that was grown locally.

Build the display to limit escape

Consider what could be blown, dropped, or washed away. Wind may carry loose seed heads, and rain can move soil or small foliage pieces into drains and waterways. Avoid plants with ripe berries or seeds if you cannot keep them securely contained.

Use these practical steps to reduce the chance of plant material spreading:

- Choose plants you can identify and that are not listed as invasive in the area.
- Where possible, use flowers and foliage that have no mature seeds.
- Leave potted plants in their containers, and stop soil from spilling out.
- Fasten stems and decorative pieces so they do not shift or blow away.
- Keep loose plant pieces clear of drains, water, and nearby natural growth.

Match the design to the site conditions. An arrangement sheltered from wind may stay intact in a light breeze, while an exposed location may call for a simpler setup. Inspect the display during the event and pick up anything that has fallen.

Clear the site after the display

Set aside enough time to clean the installation and the ground around it. Collect stems, petals, berries, soil, and every other piece of plant debris. Before taking containers or transport materials elsewhere, check them for leftover plant matter.

Use the disposal method recommended by local authorities, particularly for material from a known invasive plant. Do not leave it in a garden, field, or waterway. If you are unsure how to dispose of it, ask the local authority before adding it to compost. Some seeds and plant parts may remain able to grow.

Common questions from florists

Are cut flowers always suitable for outdoor displays?

No. A cut stem may still carry living plant pieces or seeds that can take root. Check what species it is and inspect its condition.

Is it safe to use dried grasses?

Identify the grasses and check whether they have seeds. If their identity or seed status is uncertain, choose a known alternative without seeds.

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

Do not use it outdoors. Choose another plant with a dependable scientific name.

Where can I check local restrictions?

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

Also helpful: corporate flower etiquette