

BEST OF *Missouri* *market*

October 3-5, 2025

Friday, Oct. 3: 9am – 7pm

Saturday, Oct. 4: 9am – 5pm

(members' only hour 8am – 9am)

Sunday, Oct. 5: 9am – 5pm

Best of Missouri Market's History

The Best of Missouri Market started in 1991 through the Institutional Advancement Division by Garden volunteers and Members' Board officers Nora Stern and Ellen Dubinsky. The Public Events department took over coordination in 2009.

In 2022, approximately 100 Missouri-based artisans and food producers sampled and sold their products at the Market. Vendors set up under 1 large clear span tent on the Garden's east parking lot. A separate food court area is located in the East Lot, live music is featured on Linnean Plaza, a Craft Beer and Cocktail Court spreads out South of the visitor center and through the beautiful Central Axis by the Garden's famous Climatron greenhouse, and a Kids' Corner is located at Cohen Amphitheater. Corporate sponsors play a large role in the Best of Missouri Market. Many of the sponsors have a presence at the Market at booths and in the Kids' Corner. Many sponsors are recognized in the Market Directory and on banners throughout the Market.

2022's Best of Missouri Market celebrated 30 years of the event, with October 8th, 2022 becoming the official "Best of Missouri Market Day," proclaimed by St. Louis mayor Tishaura Jones.

Fees and Taxes

- Basic vendor spaces are 10'x10' and costs start at a base price of **\$500**.
- Double booth spaces start at a cost of **\$1,500**. Double booths are limited. **Please note that this is a price change from 2024.**
- Premium booth spaces (end booths and corner booths) start at **\$1,00**. A limited number of each type of space is available. **Please note that this is a price change from 2024.**
- Food truck spaces are **\$250 per day of attendance**.
- All vendor spaces are outdoors on flat ground (under tents), rain or shine.
- Tables are available to rent at **\$50** for 2 tables (max of 2 tables per 10x10 space).
- **\$50 per day** for a temporary food permit, **\$75 per event** for propane permit, catering permit required for alcohol sales by the glass.
- A charge of **\$75** is required for each electrical circuit requested (up to 3 max).
- Missouri sales tax rules apply to all vendor sales.

Is ice provided?

- A limited amount of ice will be provided at the Market. The Garden's ice chests will be filled at the beginning of each day of the Market. All vendors must sign out the amount of bags of ice they take and transport their own ice to their booth. Once the ice chests are empty for the day, they will not be refilled until the following day. We **HIGHLY SUGGEST** bringing your own ice each day to guarantee there will be enough.

Are chairs provided?

- **NO** – please bring your own.

Are table linens provided?

- **NO** – please bring your own.

Vendor & Garden Stipulations, FAQs

- All products must be made **by the vendor**. Food items must be prepared in a commercial kitchen. All transactions **must be cashless**.
- The Garden is committed to turning the Market into a zero waste event. Vendors are required to obtain compostable serving ware if serving food items or beverages. Please note that Styrofoam is *not* permitted at the Missouri Botanical Garden.
 - The Garden works with local vendor Garrett Paper to provide strongly suggested product lists for vendors. The Garden's sustainability staff assists confirmed vendors with sourcing disposable serving items.
- Vendors selling food items (NOT sampling) are required to obtain temporary food permits from St. Louis City. Alcohol vendors must obtain catering permits, and temporary food permits IF using ice in cocktails for sample OR sale.
- Wineries, breweries and distilleries may sell by the glass for onsite consumption or by the bottle/package to take home, provided the vendor obtains the proper permits.
- Booths **must** stay open and stocked until 7 p.m. Friday and 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and may not be left unattended. Thus, each booth must have a minimum of 2 staff.
- Booth signs are to be furnished and displayed by the vendors. No handwritten signs allowed.

- Fire codes prohibit cooking inside the tent; however, you may keep foods warm for serving. NO OPEN FLAMES ALLOWED (NO LIT CANDLES PERMITTED).
- Smoking and tobacco products or devices are not permitted anywhere on the Garden campus, including parking lots.
- Pets are not allowed in the Garden. Service animals are permitted.