



## MISSOULA FARMERS' MARKET RULES AND REGULATIONS 2026

### 1. MARKET HOURS

- Saturdays May 2nd through October 31st, 2026. 8:00 am to 12:30 pm May-September, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm in October. 26 Saturday markets.
- Tuesdays June 2nd through September 29th, 2026, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. 18 Tuesday markets.

There is no opening bell. Vendors may begin selling as soon as they arrive.

### 2. SET UP

For Saturday markets, vendors must set up between 6:30 am and 8:15 am. No vendor may set up after 8:15 am. Vendors may drive vehicles into the Market Place to unload until 7:45 am. For Tuesday markets, vendors must set up between 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm. Vendors are required to unload vehicles promptly and must remove vehicles immediately when unloaded and then return to complete set-up.

### 3. TAKE DOWN

Vendors can bring vehicles into the market and begin loading up after 12:30 pm on Saturdays and 7:00 pm on Tuesdays. Vendors must be packed up and off the street by 1:00 pm on Saturday and 7:30 pm on Tuesday. Vendors must follow directions of the Market Manager and assistants to ensure safety and smooth traffic flow.

### 4. ITEMS FOR SALE

The Missoula Farmers' Market is a local farm and garden market. Vendors are required to comply with Missoula County Health Department rules and licensing requirements. The Missoula County Farmers Market regulations may be found at <http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/>. When a license is required, the vendor must supply the Market Manager with a photocopy of their license prior to sales. Under Market Authority and the Missoula City Ordinance, products must be raised, grown or gathered by the vendor in Western Montana, except fruit for jams, jellies, and syrups which can be obtained by the vendor from Western Montana growers. The Market Board has authority over what may be sold at the Market and it reserves the right to inspect the source of products sold.

- A. PRODUCE: fresh vegetables and herbs, fresh or dried fruits, cut flowers, wreaths, and dried flower arrangements.
- B. NURSERY PLANTS: All plants from seed must be grown completely by the vendor. All plants that are available as cuttings, roots, tubers, bulbs, and plugs must be potted up and sold by the grower. You cannot buy plants to resell at the market.
- C. PROCESSED FOODS: Commercial bakeries may sell a variety of baked goods, subject to Health Department directives. Any processed foods must be produced in accordance with the Health Department guidelines, including non-commercially baked goods, cider, and honey.
- D. ORGANIC PRODUCTS: Vendors advertising their products as organic must follow the strict regulations set out by the USDA, and be able to show proof of certification upon request. (information at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/>).



- E. **NON-FOOD/AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS:** The board of directors has decided to welcome a limited number of crafters and artisans. This year, we are limiting these vendors to 15% of the total number of vendors.
- Agricultural Crafts:** In general, they must be handmade predominantly of material grown or gathered by the vendor in Western Montana, such that the agricultural material is the focus of the craft product. Items may include, but are not limited to, wool and wool products, body care products, wreaths, dried floral arrangements, potpourri and gourd bird houses.
  - Products and services that support the use of items purchased at the market, or promote gardening and sustainable living practices. Examples include knife sharpening or composting services, wooden bowls and utensils, ceramic dinnerware.
  - The market co-managers have the discretion to immediately remove any item considered objectionable. The Board of Directors must review the decision within 30 days and make an official ruling.
- F. **OTHER PRODUCTS:** Products not specifically addressed above but that are allowed by Missoula County Health Department regulations may be sold at the Market in compliance with Health Department rules and licensing requirements. Prior approval by the Board and Market Manager is necessary because of space and power limitations.

## 5. PARKING

The parking lot next to the market space off of Higgins has controlled access and the gates will not be opened before 6:30 am on Saturdays and 4:45 pm on Tuesdays. This is available for loading and unloading but is reserved for customers only. You may exit at any time but there will be no further access to this lot after 12:30 pm on Saturdays and 7:30 pm on Tuesdays. The parking lot adjacent to the Market off of Pattee is owned by the Peak and is only available for loading and unloading until 8:00 am.

## 6. SPACE DEFINITION AND IDENTIFICATION

Sellers must keep within 10 ft from the curb. One space is 6 ft wide. **Vendors with 10' tents MUST purchase two spaces.** Truck spaces are up to 25 ft long. Each vendor must post their name and address and/or phone number in a clearly visible area on their stand in one-inch-high letters.

## 7. ANIMALS

Montana State and Missoula County Health Department rules do not allow pets, leashed or unleashed, except service animals, within 15 ft of the Market area.

## 8. PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

Per Montana State and Missoula County Health Department rules, All mushrooms, huckleberries, and eggs sold must bear vendor identity information on bags or cartons.

## 9. ATTENDANCE

The "Vendor" is the entity renting the market space. The vendor, grower, producer, and market seller must be one and the same individual, immediate family member (spouse, child, sibling, or parent) or co-owners of the produce business. The vendor may allow immediate family members to sell in the vendor's absence.



#### 10. FEES

Fees are based on the linear footage of frontage of the space occupied. Non-reserved space vendors must be at their space from 7:30 am on Saturday and 5:00 pm on Tuesday because fee collection begins at that time. The fee schedule for non-reserved spaces and trucks is given below. The fee schedule for reserved spaces is on the application form posted on the website. **Full season fees must be paid in full by May 31st and are nonrefundable.**

#### 11. CLEAN MARKET PLACE

Sellers are responsible for keeping and leaving their area clean, including the parking area where vendor vehicles are unloaded. The market provides brooms and dustpans. To reduce litter, please provide a receptacle for trash generated at your stand.

#### 12. RULES FOR RESERVED SPACES

Reserved spaces are those which are assigned for the season. Applications for reserved space must be submitted by each vendor prior to the beginning of the market on the requested date. The form is available on the Missoula Farmers Market website. The assignment of reserved spaces is at the discretion of the board.

Vendors who had reserved spaces during the preceding year will be given priority for spaces and selection of locations for available spaces the next year. Reserved spaces may not be sold or transferred to another party. The right to use a reserved space is limited to the assigned vendors and may not be used by any other persons except at the discretion of the Market Manager. If the reserved space vendor does not occupy their space by 7:45 am on Saturday, the Market Manager may assign the space to a first-come, first-served vendor. A vendor may request a reserved space after the start of the market season by submitting a completed application form along with payment.

#### 13. RULES FOR NON-RESERVED SPACES

The Market Manager assigns non-reserved spaces on a first-come, first served basis. Vendors without a reserved space must consult the Market Manager about where to set up. The Market Manager has the final word in all disputes over space. It is a violation for any vendor to save or secure a space for a later arriving vendor.

#### 14. TRUCKS

Trucks are allowed only in truck spaces. A vendor may not use a truck space in combination with any other space at the same market. Vendors selling from a truck must notify the Market Manager by the day before the market they plan to attend. A vendor may only use a second truck space after all vendors wanting a truck space have been accommodated. The Market Manager has authority over parking arrangement and the use of tables.

#### 15. CIVILITY

Vendors and market employees are expected to treat one another and their customers with civility and respect. Verbal or physical abuse is a violation of Missoula Farmers' Market regulations.

#### 16. DISREGARD OF MARKET RULES

These regulations are enforced to promote the welfare and safety of sellers and shoppers alike. If notified of an infraction by the Market Manager, the vendor must correct it. Disregard of these rules will lead to expulsion from the Market. A first violation will result in a violation notice being issued.



A second notice will result in exclusion from the following Saturday Market. A third notice will result in exclusion from the Market for the rest of the season. Violation notices are cumulative from year to year for a period of up to three years. A fourth notice may result in permanent exclusion from the Market and will require the vendor to petition the Market Board for reinstatement. Appeals of any Missoula Farmers' Market violation notice may be made in writing to the Board, P. O. Box 1716, Missoula MT 59801.