

4 January 2026

Dear Exhibitor:

Thank you for your interest in this year's Friends School Plant Sale. The 2026 Garden Fair will be held Friday, May 8–Sunday May 10, 2026 with setup Thursday May 7. Application materials are now available at <http://www.friendsschoolplantsale.com/exhibitors>.

The Garden Fair is located on the West End Plaza at the end of Liggett Street, northwest of the Grandstand on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. With last year's relocation of the Plant Sale parking to the Transit Hub, we relocated the Garden Fair, too, to ensure that Garden Fair Exhibitors will continue to be visible to thousands of Minnesotans who are interested in the unique character of our annual event and who support our school's core values of peace, justice, simplicity, integrity, and community. For the locations of Plant Sale parking and the Garden Fair go to #16 at I-23 on the map at <https://assets.mnstatefair.org/pdf/24-msf-color-map.pdf>.

If you are interested in being an Exhibitor in the Garden Fair this year, please note the following:

- **Selection process:** Exhibitors in the Garden Fair are chosen from applications reviewed and accepted by the FSM plant sale committee. We seek Exhibitors who provide products or services that are garden-related and that do not duplicate those offered by the Friends School of Minnesota. Uniqueness of product can be determined by comparing your stock to offerings in our previous plant sale catalogs. See the Garden Fair exhibitor listings in the on-line catalog at <https://www.friendsschoolplantsale.com/catalog>
- **Exhibitor sale dates:** Friday, May 8 (9 am–8 pm), Saturday, May 9 (10 am–6 pm), and Sunday, May 10 (10 am–2 pm). The volunteer pre-sale (by invitation only) is on Thursday, May 7 (2:30–8:30 pm). While you may open for business that afternoon/evening, feedback from Exhibitors is that Garden Fair sales are very weak during that period. As a result, most Exhibitors wait until Friday morning to open when the sale opens to the public. However, you may sell on Thursday, if you wish. For your enjoyment, each Exhibitor is issued two complimentary tickets for the Thursday pre-sale as well as 2 coupons for the discount plant sale on Sunday.
- **Submission of an application does not guarantee entry** into the Garden Fair. To apply, please send the application and supporting documents, as well as your registration fee (<https://www.friendsschoolplantsale.com/gardenfair-apply>) as soon as possible. We will acknowledge your application and deposit your payment if accepted. We will notify you and return your registration fee if you are not selected to participate in the Garden Fair.
- **No unsealed food or beverages** may be sold or offered for consumption on site or from Exhibitors' booths without additional permits from the Minnesota State Fair and the State of Minnesota. Applications for offering samples are separate from and in addition to the application for the Garden Fair. More information is available upon request.
- **Exhibitor check-in and setup** are 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Thursday, May 7, 2026 at the Wristband Station located on the West End Plaza, northeast of the Grandstand. Please make alternative arrangements with the on-site Garden Fair coordinator, Huong Nguyen, if

you are unable to deliver your product and get it unloaded onto your assigned site during those times.

- **Parking and unloading space** will be unavailable to Exhibitors on Thursday, May 7 between 2 pm and 8 pm. If you choose to open for sales Thursday, you must be completely set up by 2 pm. Or you may decide to attend the plant sale pre-sale instead, using the two complimentary tickets each Exhibitor is given.
- **All paperwork** required for participation in the Garden Fair must be returned to Friends School of Minnesota by Monday, February 9, 2026 if you're interested in being listed in our printed catalog. Otherwise, apply for exhibit space by Friday, April 10, 2026. All paperwork must be returned to Friends School of Minnesota by Monday, May 4 before the start of the sale in order to exhibit at the sale. Your presence in the Garden Fair will be included on the Plant Sale website from the date you are accepted into the sale and will remain there until February the next year.
- **Space assignments** in the Garden Fair are on a first-come, first-served basis for new Exhibitors. You will be notified of the assigned site for your setup during the week before the sale opens. Space is limited and we are still exploring the best way to use space on the West End Plaza. We do our best to locate all booths in equally desirable spots based on the total number of Exhibitors and the special needs of some products. We take your requests under consideration, but cannot guarantee particular spaces will be available in any given year.
- **Materials:** Exhibitors are responsible for their own signage, tents, tables, and chairs. Nothing can be taped to State Fair walls.
- **Payment:** At the close of your final sale day, we work with you individually to collect Friend School's portion of your sales. See application form for specifics. Those who pay before leaving the 2026 Garden Fair pay a smaller percentage of sales; those who must be billed afterwards pay a larger percentage.

If you have questions or need additional information, please call or text Kathie at 612-590-1394, or email her at kathiesimonfrank@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2026 Friends School of Minnesota Plant Sale!

Huong Nguyen will be your on-site coordinator during the Garden Fair.

Kathie Simon Frank will communicate with you throughout the application process.

Sincerely, Kathie and Huong
Garden Fair Coordinators,
Friends School Plant Sale Planning Committee