



# MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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What's growing on  
at the Garden!

## **MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN CONDUCTS 30-DAY FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING PILOT IN SASSAFRAS CAFÉ** *The Garden is Partnering with St. Louis Composting*

(ST. LOUIS): In an effort to further its commitment to sustainability, the Missouri Botanical Garden has launched a 30-day food waste composting pilot in Sassafras Café, the first Certified Green Restaurant™ in Missouri. The Garden recycles nearly 100 percent of its green waste and over 75 percent of solid waste—paper, beverage containers, electronics, furniture, batteries and construction waste. The next step is to reduce food waste that goes to the landfill.

During the 30-day composting pilot, which began on Tuesday, Sept. 14, all disposables have been changed out to “compostable” disposables, bio-based cups, straws and napkins that will decompose in a commercial composting facility. Sassafras Café will operate as it always does except when staff remove lunch waste from the tables. The majority of food waste will be deposited in a tote for composting.

“Composting our food scraps along with compostable cups and napkins allows us to enlist nature’s process of decomposition to transform what was previously a landfill-bound waste product into nutrient rich soil,” said Deborah Frank, the Garden’s VP, Sustainability. “We are very hopeful this pilot will result in a long-term solution for further reducing the Garden’s waste stream.”

The Garden is partnering with St. Louis Composting on the 30-day composting pilot. St. Louis Composting is providing all compostable disposables and totes and will pick up the totes from the Café each day and bring them to its commercial composting facility.

St. Louis Composting was founded in 1992 and has blossomed into the region’s largest

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### **ADD ONE: Composting Pilot**

compost producer. The mission of the company is to help make the world a little greener and reduce landfill waste by producing compost of the highest quality. Together, four composting facilities process roughly 500,000 cubic yards of green material annually, more than one-third of all yard waste generated in St. Louis County. In addition to recycling yard trimmings gathered by the area's major waste haulers, St. Louis Composting partners with the cities of Kirkwood, Brentwood, Valley Park, Mo. and Granite City, Il. on curbside green waste recycling programs.

Sassafras Café became the first Certified Green Restaurant™ in the state of Missouri in 2008. The official designation was made by the Green Restaurant Association, a national non-profit organization whose mission is “to create an ecologically sustainable restaurant industry.”

The Missouri Botanical Garden is located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in south St. Louis, accessible from Interstate 44 at the Vandeventer exit and from Interstate 64 at the Kingshighway North & South exit. Free parking is available on-site and two blocks west at the corner of Shaw and Vandeventer.

For general information, visit [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org) or call (314) 577-5100 (toll-free, 1-800-642-8842).

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**NOTE: Digital images available by request. Download media materials at [www.mobot.org/press](http://www.mobot.org/press).**

The Missouri Botanical Garden's mission is “to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment in order to preserve and enrich life.” Today, 151 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display.

**The Missouri Botanical Garden is located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in St. Louis, just south of I-44 at Vandeventer-Kingshighway (exit #287B). Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Dec. 25. Grounds open at 7 a.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays (exception: special admission rate events). Admission is \$8; free children ages 12 and under and Garden members. St. Louis City and County residents are \$4 and free Wednesdays and Saturdays until noon (exception: special admission rate events - third weekend of May, Labor Day weekend, and first weekend of October). Park for free on site and two blocks west at the Shaw-Vandeventer intersection. The Garden is easily accessible by taking the MetroLink commuter rail line to the Central West End station and picking up a Metro bus ([www.metrostlouis.org](http://www.metrostlouis.org)). For general information, log on to [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org) or call the 24-hour recording at (314) 577-5100 or 1-800-642-8842. For membership information, visit [www.mobot.org/membership](http://www.mobot.org/membership) call (314) 577-5118 during weekday business hours. For volunteer opportunities, visit [www.mobot.org/volunteer](http://www.mobot.org/volunteer) or call (314) 577-5187. The Missouri Botanical Garden is a tobacco-free environment.**