

“Our mission is to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environments in order to preserve and enrich life.”

The Missouri Botanical Garden Missouri Statement



Images courtesy of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

National Landmark Missouri Botanical Gardens

Founded in 1859

Henry Shaw founded the Missouri Botanical Garden as a way to give back to the St. Louis community. The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and the Chatsworth Gardens in Great Britain inspired Shaw to create his own. Today, the Missouri Botanical Garden is one of the oldest botanical gardens in the United States.

In 1882, the Garden built the Linnean House, a conservatory housing palms, citrus and other plants. The Linnean House is now one of the oldest continuously operating greenhouses in the United States. Its William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening is the largest non-profit gardening information center of its kind. In 1977, the Garden completed the Japanese Garden. At the time, it was the largest of its kind in the Western Hemisphere.

Today, the Garden conducts research and conservation around the world. TROPICOS, the Garden's botanical website, is the world's largest botanical database. The website is a part of the Garden's continual effort to help conserve biological diversity. Students and researchers from across the globe travel to the Garden for research. It remains one of St. Louis' greatest gems.