

WEST PHILADELPHIA

MARIPOSA
FOOD CO-OP

Product Guidelines

Mariposa Food Co-op strives to provide the highest quality products to its member-owners and shoppers. While recognizing that this can be measured in many different ways, the goal is to meet a wide range of needs in our diverse community. Our **Product Guidelines** take direction from the Ends Statements, a set of values that we hold close as an organization, to articulate our purchasing priorities.

These standards also provide guidance to our buyers team in their purchasing decisions, and allow accountability by other staff and member-owners. The **Product Guidelines** do not dictate the specific products we carry, but present the various considerations that are balanced in making purchasing decisions.

Best Practices: *This is a list of specific product attributes that are in line with our goals & values as an organization. **We support these best practices in different ways with the variety of products that we carry.***

1. **Whole, natural and non-GMO foods:** Foods that have undergone a minimum of processing and refining, and do not contain harmful chemical additive or artificial ingredients, or artificial colors, flavors or preservatives; verified non-GMO.
2. **Affordable and accessible food:** Quality food at affordable prices, especially staple food items.
3. **Local/regional products:** Products grown and produced within 100 miles of Philadelphia.
4. **Democratic and fair labor practices:** Products that value a just workplace; workers/producers receiving a living wage; cooperative and collective businesses; unionized businesses and Fair-Trade certified producers.
5. **Sustainable agriculture:** Products that are certified organic, chemical-free or otherwise proven to be produced in an environmentally sustainable manner.
6. **Environmentally sound packaging:** Bulk and other minimal-packaging practices, and products with returnable/reusable packaging.
7. **Animal welfare:** Certified or otherwise verified humanely-raised meat and other animal products. This includes cosmetics that are not tested on animals.
8. **Specific dietary needs:** Food for people with specific dietary needs that can be difficult to meet for other food retailers, such as vegan and vegetarian foods, low sodium, low sugar/sugar-free, gluten-free, Halal, Kosher and other allergen-free products.
9. **POC-owned businesses:** Products that are produced by businesses owned by Black people, Asian-American/Pacific Islanders, Latinx folks, and/or other traditionally marginalized communities.
10. **LGBTQIA+-owned businesses:** Products that are produced by businesses owned by folks who identify as queer.
11. **Women-owned businesses:** Products that are produced by businesses owned by folks who identify as women.

12. Independent, family-owned, and non-monopoly growers, producers, processors, and distributors.
13. Other cooperative growers, producers, processors, and distributors.

Harmful Practices: *This is a list of specific product attributes that fall below our minimum quality standards and do not align with our values. **We seek to carry no products that are produced with harmful practices.***

1. **Artificial and dangerous ingredients:** Products containing harmful preservative agents or chemical additives, sulfites, artificial colors or flavorings, added or unnatural hormones, partially hydrogenated oils and unnaturally occurring MSG.
2. **Genetically Modified foods:** We strive to avoid Genetically Modified foods & products whose genetic material has been artificially manipulated in a laboratory through genetic engineering.
3. **Misleading packaging:** Products which make false or misleading nutritional, scientific, or environmental claims on the package.
4. **Exploitative or oppressive packaging:** Products with graphics, narratives or product names that utilize racial or cultural stereotypes, or are culturally appropriative, exotifying, misogynistic, fat-phobic, or ableist, or which enforce other forms of oppression based on gender, race, sexual orientation, transgender identity, ability or disability status, class or religion.
5. **Exploitative labor practices & conflicting leadership:** We refuse to sell any products that are associated with, or have been associated with unfair labor practices, including unfair pay to its workers. We reserve the right to discontinue products whose CEOs, owners, etc. do not align with our values.

Updated May 4, 2021