



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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MDAC Hosts Freshly Picked Podcast Featuring Guest from Pike County

JACKSON, Miss. – In conjunction with National Poinsettia Day, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) released its latest Freshly Picked podcast on the holiday season’s most iconic flowers, featuring special guest Teresa Gammel of Vesely’s Nursery in Sumrall, today.

Vesely’s Nursery, located in Pike County, is a family-run nursery that has been in business for 46 years in Mississippi’s Pine Belt. With Podcast Host Claude Nash, Gammel discusses the rich history of Vesely’s Nursery, the role of poinsettias in holiday traditions and how the nursery has become a major supplier for all kinds of events. Gammel says her nursery has seen more demand for their flowers to supply fundraisers, weddings, churches and florists across the state in recent years.

Gammel says Vesely’s Nursery currently has 20 greenhouses that are in production year-round. She goes on to talk about some care tips for keeping poinsettias vibrant throughout the season and creative ways to incorporate these incredible flowers into household décor. Gammel also offers advice and insight into running a horticulture nursery or specialty crop business. “Whether you’re a seasoned gardener or just looking to add some holiday cheer to your home, this week’s Freshly Picked podcast episode has something for everyone,” says Host Nash.

Listeners can tune in to today’s episode, “Celebrating Poinsettias – Mississippi’s Blossoming Holiday Tradition,” now at www.msfreshlypicked.com and on all major podcast platforms.

The Freshly Picked podcast series, developed by MDAC, will feature 24 episodes and include specialty crop farmers, experts, entrepreneurs and/or chefs as they tell the stories behind their farms, businesses and the unique products they offer. Listeners can find new episodes every Thursday through February 2025 at www.msfreshlypicked.com, Spotify, Apple Podcasts or other major platforms.

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Photo attached.



The latest episode of MDAC’s Freshly Picked podcast, titled “Celebrating Poinsettias – Mississippi’s Blossoming Holiday Tradition,” aired today at 9:30 a.m. Pictured L-R: Teresa Gammel of Vesely’s Nursery in Sumrall and Claude Nash, podcast host and editor of MDAC’s *Mississippi Market Bulletin*.