



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

ANDY GIPSON  
COMMISSIONER

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **MDAC Releases Final Freshly Picked Podcast Featuring Guest Expert from Pearl River County**

**JACKSON, Miss.** – Today, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) releases its final episode of the Freshly Picked podcast series, which promotes Mississippi specialty crops through engaging conversations with experts, farmers and entrepreneurs within the specialty crop industry. Today’s episode, “Gardening Tips for Every Season,” features special guest Dr. Eddie Smith, Mississippi State University (MSU) extension agent for Pearl River County and host of “Southern Gardening.”

Dr. Smith also holds the title of International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist. Within this episode, Smith shares invaluable tips on maximizing seasonal plants like poinsettias and Christmas cacti. He goes on to describe how to maintain your festive plants as well as preparing plants for spring with Podcast Host Claude Nash. Dr. Smith also discusses the importance of community outreach and the role MSU Extension plays in supporting local gardeners, particularly through readily available resources. He describes the positive impact his time on “Southern Gardening,” a show that offers weekly gardening tips for Mississippi growers interested in lawn, garden, flowers and all types of horticulture, has had on his life. Smith also provides his expertise and insight on soil health and “smart” landscapes.

Tune in to MDAC’s final episode today by visiting [www.msfreshlypicked.com](http://www.msfreshlypicked.com) or any major podcast platform. “As this unique podcast series comes to an end, I encourage the people at home to listen in to every episode. Our special guests and diverse topics over the past several weeks offer listeners both entertainment and practical knowledge that they can put into practice in their own lives. It’s been a joy to host the Freshly Picked podcast, and I hope Mississippians will continue to learn about and support our state’s specialty crops,” said Host Nash.

The Freshly Picked podcast series, developed by MDAC, features 24 episodes and includes 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 all 24 episodes at [www.msfreshlypicked.com](http://www.msfreshlypicked.com), Spotify, Apple Podcasts or other major platforms.

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**Photo attached.**



**The latest and final episode of MDAC’s Freshly Picked podcast series, titled “Gardening Tips for Every Season,” airs today at 9:30 a.m. Pictured L-R: Dr. Eddie Smith, Mississippi State University (MSU) extension agent for Pearl River County and host of “Southern Gardening;” and Claude Nash, podcast host and editor of MDAC’s *Mississippi Market Bulletin*.**