



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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MDAC Accepting Applications for School Garden Grant Program

JACKSON, Miss. —Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson announced that the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce is accepting applications for *Growing Lunch*, a school garden grant program, for the 2019-2020 school year.

“Growing Lunch is a great interactive and educational tool for teachers to incorporate agriculture and healthy eating into their everyday classroom,” said Commissioner Gipson. “School gardens provide a unique opportunity for students to learn where their food comes from, while they gain valuable life skills.”

Eligible schools can receive a grant of up to \$500 to purchase supplies needed to develop a school garden or to further enhance an existing school garden. All schools, K-12 and pre-schools that provide appropriate documentation, located in the State of Mississippi are eligible to apply.

Funds from this school garden grant program are issued on a first-come, first-serve basis. Only one grant can be awarded per school. Schools that have received a *Growing Lunch* grant from MDAC in the past are not eligible to apply for additional funds at this time.

This project is funded through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program through the United States Department of Agriculture. For more information about the program or to view the application, visit www.mdac.ms.gov or contact Susan Lawrence at 601-359-1196 or susan@mdac.ms.gov.

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