



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE
ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 22, 2019

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- What:** Commissioner Andy Gipson to Visit Mannsdale Upper Elementary School to Present School Garden Grant
- When:** Friday, October 25, 2019 at 11:15 a.m.
- Where:** Mannsdale Upper Elementary School
371 Mannsdale Rd, Madison, MS 39110

Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson will visit Mannsdale Upper Elementary School (MUES) in Madison on Friday, October 25, at 11:15 a.m. During the visit, he will recognize MUES as a recipient of a school garden grant made available through the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's *Growing Lunch* program. Commissioner Gipson will also tour the school's garden, which contains 39 raised beds, compost bins, chicken coop and green house.

Growing Lunch, a school garden grant program developed by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, provides financial assistance to schools to encourage the creation or expansion of school gardens. Mannsdale Upper Elementary School received \$500 to purchase Olla irrigation pots to enhance their conservation efforts. The Olla irrigation pots irrigate the garden beds, while avoiding water waste.

Through the *Growing Lunch* program, 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 providing appropriate documentation, in the State of Mississippi are eligible to apply.

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Media is invited to attend. Please report to the main office upon arrival.