

# **News Release**

**For Immediate Release**

**Date: March 8, 1998**

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## **GARDEN SHOW DRAWS THOUSANDS OF GREEN THUMBS TO JACKSON**

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The first ever Mississippi Garden & Patio Show has ended with organizers and show participants calling the event a success. Show hosts estimate that more than 5,000 people attended the three-day exposition, which featured everything from plants to seminars on lawn management to iron and ceramic sculptures for the garden that has everything.

“We are extremely pleased with the turnout,” said Lester Spell, Jr., Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC), one of the host agencies for the show. “The response to this initial effort proves that there is a real need for this type of show. Next year’s event should be even bigger and better.”

Vendors and customers alike praised the show. “I had to take a trip back home to restock my inventory,” said Pauline Herring, owner of Ridge Point Gardens in Meadville. “The show has been very good.” Glen Beard of Flower Center Nursery in Vicksburg says he plans to come back next year, with one change. “We’re doubling our booth size next year.” Sandra Ainsworth of Puckett, in Rankin County, summed up the event for thousands of shoppers. “I came to see the flowers,” she says. “But I’ve seen several things I want!”

The Mississippi Garden & Patio Show was a joint effort by MDAC, the Mississippi Nurserymen Association and the Cooperative Extension Service. It was designed to showcase the horticulture industry in Mississippi and make citizens aware of the products and knowledge available for their homes and gardens. Mississippi currently ranks 34<sup>th</sup> in the nation in horticulture, but the industry is growing rapidly