

FRESHLY
PICKED

FLOWERS
& HERBS



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FUN FACTS

The Magnolia was chosen as the state flower of Mississippi in 1900.

Herbs have been used for a very, very long time. The earliest documentation is written on Babylonian tablets and dates back over 5,000 years.

Herbs have high levels of vitamins, minerals, and other savory elements that make your food nutritious and tasty.

Many different herbs can be used for insect repellent. Mint deters ants, and basil repels flies and mosquitoes, for example.

Excess of herbs? Try drying them or freezing them in ice cube trays with olive oil or butter to add to future dishes!

SOURCES

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DelPrince, James M. *The Professional Florist's Manual for the Care and Handling of Fresh-Cut Flowers and Foliage*. 2023.

DelPrince, James M. *Using a Knife to Cut Fresh Flowers*. 2017.

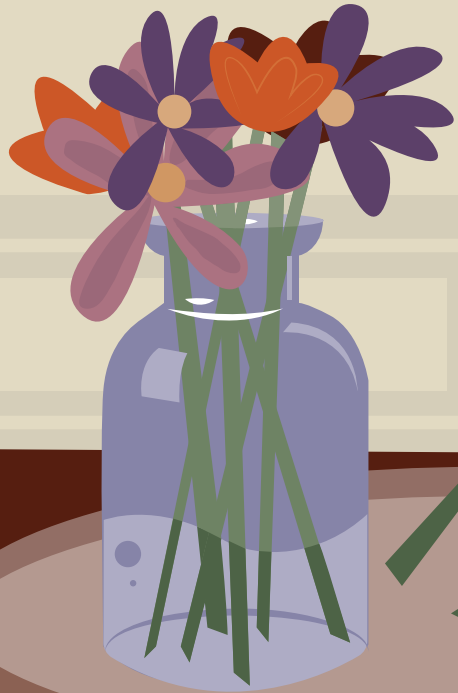
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Andy Gipson, Commissioner
Mdac.ms.gov

FRESHLY PICKED FLOWERS & HERBS

Fresh-cut flowers bring vibrant beauty to our dining rooms, serve as heartfelt gifts, and deserve the utmost care. Their dazzling colors and delicate fragrances elevate any space or occasion. But beauty isn't the only way to captivate the senses—herbs offer their own unique charm. Just as flowers brighten a room, herbs enhance our lives with rich flavors and soothing aromas. Whether you're crafting the perfect bouquet or seasoning a delicious meal, Mississippi's specialty crops have you covered. Create the cut flower and herb garden of your dreams, set the scene for memorable gatherings, and indulge in nature's finest offerings!



HOW TO CUT YOUR FLOWERS

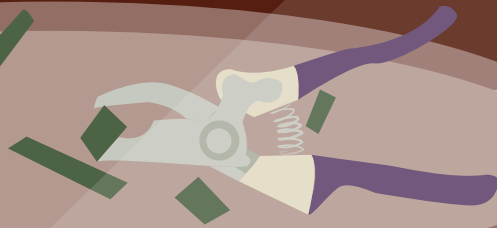
First off, we'll need the right tool for the job. A cut-flower knife, paring knife, or pruning shears are great options for consistent cuts.

Remember, it's always best to harvest cut flowers in the morning when temperatures are low and the plant has a high water content.

Next up, you'll want to remove any foliage that will be below the water line in your container. This ensures the bacterial content of your water stays low.

Cutting at an angle ensures your flowers don't sit squarely on the bottom of the container, blocking water and nutrient intake.

Then, you're all set! Your flowers are ready for the limelight!



MAINTAINING YOUR CUT FLOWERS

Cut flowers should be displayed at around 72 degrees and stored at 35 to 40 degrees.

Ordinary tap water is fine for flowers. Adding flower food provides carbohydrates, citric acids, and biocides to get the most out of your plants.

"Vase life" is the amount of time flowers remain beautiful and useable.

The average "vase life" of a flower is about seven days, depending on the type and care given. Cutting off stems and leaves could help your flowers keep their color for longer.



HERBS

Herbs spice up your garden as borders, accent plants, hedges, and their own little lot.

Be sure to mulch your planting area with pine bark, straw, or wood chips to ensure your herbs don't have any competition.

There are over 19 herbs that are perfect to grow in Mississippi.

Lavender, thyme, mint, basil, rosemary, dill, and chives are among the top herbs for home gardeners.

Be sure to plant your herbs in full sunlight for the best results!

A major cause of failure with herbs in the South is poor drainage of the soil. Planting your herbs in a well-drained bed area, a container, or raised bed, will more likely result in success.

