

FRESHLY  
PICKED

PECANS, HONEY, &  
CHRISTMAS TREES



# FRESHLY PICKED HONEY, & CHRISTMAS TREES

## SOURCES

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## FUN FACTS

Honey bees are the only insect in the world that produce food that humans eat.

Honey is a natural sweetener and a natural way to boost your energy level.

Pecans are actually the seeds of a green stone fruit and not a nut.

Pecan trees are the largest of the hickory tree family.

Pecan trees are native to the USA which is responsible for over 80% of global pecan production.

A one acre field of Christmas trees provides enough oxygen for 18 people a year.

The first decorated Christmas tree recorded was from Latvia in 1510.

Fresh cut Christmas trees can drink about a gallon of water a day.

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Funding for this project was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.

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Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce  
Andy Gipson, Commissioner  
[Mdac.ms.gov](https://mdac.ms.gov)

## HONEY

After starting a hive, the first batch of honey can typically be harvested after about four to six months.

Under optimal circumstances, a hive can produce up to 100 pounds of honey in one year.

The Mississippi Beekeepers Association consists of over 500 beekeepers.

Mississippi beekeepers typically produce over 1 million pounds of honey annually.

A pound of honey usually takes about 2 million flower visits.

## PECANS

Pecans contain an immense amount of protein, natural antioxidants, 19 vitamins and minerals, and can help improve cholesterol.

Not sure when your pecans are ready to harvest? Nuts that have fallen from the tree and/or have cracked brown husks are two ways to know it's time.

Early September to November is the best time to harvest pecans.

Pecan trees normally take anywhere from 2 to 10 years to start producing nuts.

Mississippi ranks in the top 10 states for pecan production with 2-4 million pounds every year.

## CHRISTMAS TREES

The most popular types of Christmas trees in the South are Leyland Cypress, Arizona Cypress, Virginia Pine, Eastern White Pine, and Eastern Red Cedar.

Preserve your tree's look for longer by using Christmas lights that emit less heat, avoiding direct sunlight, and keeping heat sources away.

To help your tree absorb water, make a fresh 1-inch cut at the bottom of the trunk before you place it in the tree stand.

If you cut your tree in mid to late December, you can have one through St. Patrick's Day.

Christmas trees are completely biodegradable, so after you're done with your tree, be sure to recycle it for a different use like mulch, ashes for fertilizer, creating a habitat, or for firewood!

## FRESHLY PICKED

Our specialty crops include more than just fruits and vegetables. From the sweet flavor of honey to the iconic look of a Christmas tree, every occasion and every meal is better with specialty crops. Honey, pecans, and Christmas trees show Mississippi's diverse spread of crops, and we wouldn't have it any other way.