Southerners love gardening and take great pride in the results of their gardening skills. With moderate weather almost year-round, something is always in bloom. This is also farming country, where the best in produce is also grown year-round. Explore some of the area’s beautiful gardens and farmers markets.

**Aldridge Gardens** – Start your morning with a visit to the beautiful and peaceful Aldridge Gardens in the heart of nearby Hoover. The 30-acre expanse is well known for its hydrangeas, including the delicate Snowflake Hydrangea, patented by the gardens’ owner and the official flower of Hoover. Also on the property is a five-acre lake and a half-mile walking trail. Groups can schedule a scavenger hunt or enjoy birdwatching.

**Arlington Antebellum Home & Gardens** – Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Arlington is a former plantation home with six acres of landscaped gardens. Because Birmingham did not become a city until 1871, it is the only antebellum home in the city. The two-story frame structure was built between 1845-1850 in the Greek Revival style of architecture and serves as a decorative arts museum.

**Birmingham Botanical Gardens** – Spread across 67 acres in the Birmingham suburb of Mountain Brook, the gardens are filled with more than 30 thematic gardens, including the peaceful Japanese Garden with an authentic teahouse. Visitors come from around the world to admire the Dunn Formal Rose Garden as well as the Ireland Iris Garden. A popular café is on site as well.
**JONES VALLEY TEACHING FARM** – This urban farm encourages academic exploration and achievement through food, farming, and the culinary arts. Here, students at all grade levels learn the importance of growing food with on-site instruction. This three-acre city block includes a community garden and a farm center. Community gardeners lease their plots and the farm provides seeds, seedlings, compost, tools, and garden supplies.

**THE MARKET AT PEPPER PLACE** – This is Birmingham’s most popular spot on Saturday mornings year-round. Farmers from surrounding communities bring in everything from asparagus to zucchini, while other tents are filled with honey, baked goods, blueberries, and pecans. The market gets its name for its location at the old Dr. Pepper bottling plant. Cooking demonstrations and food trucks are all part of this colorful Saturday experience.