

## **WATERMELON DAYS**

WHEREAS: Watermelon is a warm-season crop related to cantaloupe, squash, cucumber and pumpkin. Watermelons can be grown on any well-drained soil throughout Georgia but are particularly well adapted to the Coastal Plain soils of South Georgia.

WHEREAS: Yields of 20,000 to 40,000 pounds of watermelon per acre are common. More than 35,000 acres of watermelon are produced in Georgia, with more than 25 percent of this produced on plastic mulch; and

WHEREAS: Watermelons will continue to be an important part of vegetable production in the state. Increases in average yield per acre will continue; and

WHEREAS: The Georgia watermelon industry has played a significant role in the economic growth and prosperity of our state, and Cordele and Crisp County ship over 200 millions pounds of watermelon each year; and

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim June 21-July 12, 2003, as WATERMELON DAYS in Georgia and call this observance to the attention of our citizens.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this first day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand three.

