

GARDEN MONTH

WHEREAS: During spring, the season of renewal, thousands of Georgians unpack their tool sheds to prepare for another joyful year of gardening; and

WHEREAS: Gardening touches almost every aspect of society. In urban neighborhoods, gardening has been proven to reduce crime. Research shows that patients who garden recover more quickly and feel more hopeful. Educators overwhelmingly report that behavioral problems diminish and responsibility flourishes when children garden. Gardening has been shown to improve the quality of life for elders and to decrease recidivism of prison inmates. This is the power of gardening; and

WHEREAS: The efforts and contributions of gardeners were first celebrated by a 1986 Presidential proclamation from Ronald Reagan creating the first National Garden Week, because gardening is a wholesome avocation that encourages appreciation for nature and concern for the preservation and enhancement of our environment. It prompts a genuine respect for those who work in agriculture today. Gardening, above all, provides a special source of fulfillment when foresight, patience, and collaboration with soil and sunlight finally are repaid by lovely flowers and luscious harvests; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim June 2003, as GARDEN MONTH in Georgia.

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

