

FLORICULTURE MONTH

2009

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the floriculture industry is one of the strongest segments of agriculture in North Carolina as well as the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the wholesale value of floriculture crops in North Carolina and the nation has continued to increase over the past years; and

WHEREAS, according to the NCDA&CS Agricultural Statistics Division, there is in excess of 18 million square feet of total floral greenhouse area and approximately 744 acres of outdoor floral production area; and

WHEREAS, according to the North Carolina State University Floriculture Research program, North Carolina also produces a diversity of over 1,000 different varieties of floriculture crops; and

WHEREAS, according to the NCDA&CS Agricultural Statistics Division, floriculture is of great importance to the economy of North Carolina with our state ranking fifth in the Nation in floriculture wholesale value; and

WHEREAS, according to the NCDA&CS Agricultural Statistics Division, the industry provides employment for many of our state's citizens and produces in excess of \$194 million in farm income; and

WHEREAS, according to the NCDA&CS Agricultural Statistics Division, bedding and garden plants generate about \$103 million in wholesale value, while potted flowering plants bring \$34 million to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, according to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Carolina is second in the Nation for total quantity sold of potted poinsettias, growing approximately 4.8 million poinsettias annually, with a wholesale value of \$15.2 million; and

WHEREAS, according to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Carolina also ranks among the top ten states in sales of chrysanthemums, azaleas, orchids, and hosta, as well as bedding and garden plants;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Beverly E. Perdue, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 2009, as "**FLORICULTURE MONTH**" in North Carolina and urge our citizens to support an industry that enhances, beautifies and enriches our environment and our lives.

BEVERLY E. PERDUE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this nineteenth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.