

## Gaston Grower Spotlight- March 2021



### Gearing Up For Spring

Our growers aren't being fooled by a couple of warm days, that's typical for our area this time of year. That being said it is a crucial time for our nursery growers. Whether it's perennial/annual landscape plants or vegetable transplants, now is the time of preparation. The month of March is crucial for getting transplants for summer vegetable gardens started from seed. March is also a pivotal month for landscape crops in the greenhouse, protection from the cold and pushing growth to meet customer demands come spring. The new greenhouse at [Creekside Nursery](#) pictured above is currently being utilized to protect and grow their ornamentals to meet the growing demand of their customers. Greenhouses are utilized to keep our commercial growers a few months ahead of the consumer. Many of these crops will not be removed from the protection of the greenhouse until freezing temperatures are no longer a threat. Historically our last frost is around April 1st but our growers know that a mid to late April freeze is always a possibility for Gaston County. It's a tricky game that our commercial growers have to play between having inventory ready at the appropriate time while battling the uncertainties of our climate.

## Itching to Plant?

If you're eager to get out and start gardening there are quite a few things that can be planted this month. Plant vegetable crops like lettuce, certain peas, Irish potatoes, onion, and more. Here is a good calendar to follow for planting dates for vegetable crops, [Central North Carolina Planting Calendar](#). You may be waiting for the ground to dry up from all of the rain before venturing out into the yard or garden. If that's you, then try your hand at planting succulents from a local garden center. Many succulents have low watering and upkeep demands and can make for a fun family activity. The picture to the right shows a fun project idea that includes a *Haworthiopsis limifolia* "fairies washboard" from [New Hope Greenhouses](#). You can read more [about Haworthias here](#).



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