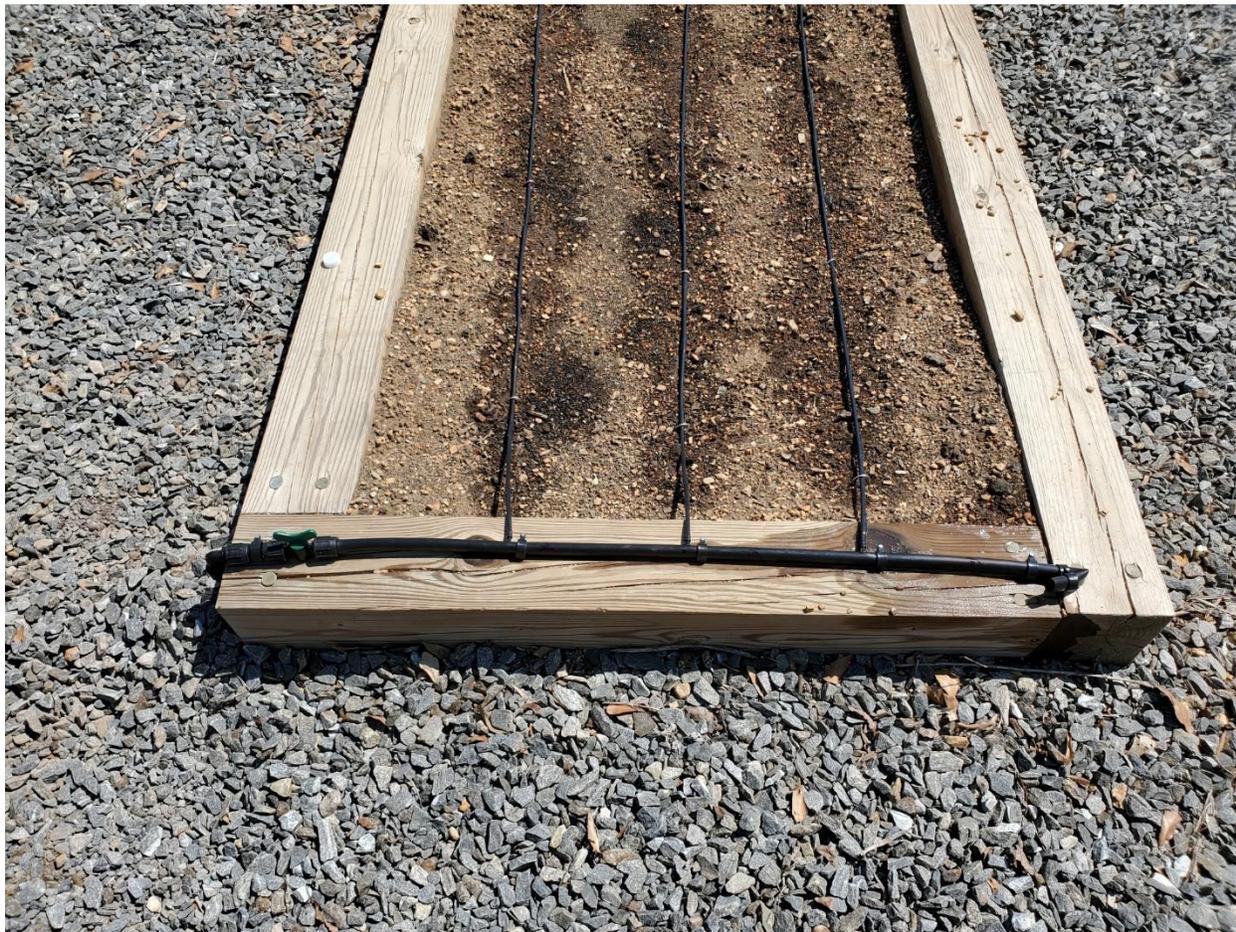


## GASTON GROWER SPOTLIGHT- April 2021



### No Fooling Around in April

The first day in April is often celebrated with pranks and jokes but in our office and for our growers it is no time for joking, it's a time of busyness. As the weather continues to warm and soil temperatures do the same the busier we will be. It truly feels like a new season with the [Mount Holly Farmers Market](#) and the [Gastonia Farmers Market](#) both opening on April 3rd. The selections at these markets will get even broader as more fruits and vegetables come into season in May, June and July. Our farm visits and updates from producers in late March lead us to believe that this year is going to be a great year for our county's growers.

The picture above shows one way our office has gotten involved in the final preparations before the growing season for the Highland Community's Youth Garden. A few of our staff members along with a couple of volunteers took a few hours on April 5th to install drip irrigation onto eight of their raised beds to start them off this year. The exciting news is that more beds will be

completed later this year to help teach a few of the youth participants a useful skill. Drip irrigation conserves water, helps reduce nutrient loss due to leaching, reduces disease pressure and saves valuable time. Although watering requirements for crops differ, the 1" of water per week rule is usually a good rule of thumb for most home gardens. The drip emitters and timer allow for the amount of water to be distributed evenly, spread throughout the week for plant utilization, and the ability to stop irrigation if rainfall has been adequate. If you wish to learn more about irrigation feel free to contact [Payton Flowers](#) with any questions.



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