

D I G I T A L M A G A Z I N E

LEARN⁺™ more

California Agriculture

Full of Food, Farmers & Fun!



55
Crops

E N R I C H M E N T

California Agriculture

LEARN ⁺ More



[Apples](#)

[Celery](#)

[Limes](#)

[Raspberries](#)

[Apricots](#)

[Cherries](#)

[Milk](#)

[Rice](#)

[Artichokes](#)

[Cucumbers](#)

[Nectarines](#)

[Spinach](#)

[Arugula](#)

[Dates](#)

[Okra](#)

[Squash](#)

[Asparagus](#)

[Dragon Fruit](#)

[Olives](#)

[Strawberries](#)

[Avocados](#)

[Garlic](#)

[Oranges](#)

[Sunflowers](#)

[Bell Peppers](#)

[Green Beans](#)

[Passion Fruit](#)

[Sweet Corn](#)

[Blueberries](#)

[Grapefruit](#)

[Peaches](#)

[Sweet Potatoes](#)

[Broccoli](#)

[Grapes](#)

[Pears](#)

[Tangerines](#)

[Brussels Spouts](#)

[Honeydew](#)

[Persimmons](#)

[Tomatillos](#)

[Cabbage](#)

[Kiwifruit](#)

[Plums](#)

[Tomatoes](#)

[Cantaloupe](#)

[Kumquats](#)

[Pluots](#)

[Watermelon](#)

[Carrots](#)

[Lemons](#)

[Potatoes](#)

[Wheat](#)

[Cauliflower](#)

[Lettuce](#)

[Pumpkins](#)

California

Apples

Apples are grown on **25,000+** acres throughout California.

California is the **5th** largest apple producing state in the U.S.

4 Types of Apples CA Specializes In:

1. Gala
2. Fuji
3. Granny Smith
4. Pink Ladies

21% of apples are juiced.

2,500

varieties of apples are grown in the United States.

All of the U.S. produces **250** million bushels of apples each year.



apples make **1** gallon of cider.



An **apple blossom** is the flower that comes from an apple tree.

An apple tree takes at least **4 years** to start producing fruit.

Most apples are **HAND-PICKED.**



California

Apricots

California is the **number 1** apricot producing state in the U.S.

California produces **95%** of commercially grown apricots.

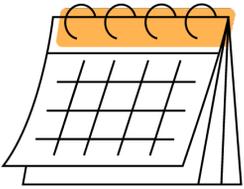
Commonly enjoyed in **jams** or as a **dried fruit**.



The seed in the center of an apricot is called a **“stone”**.

JANUARY 9

National Apricot Day



Apricots are in season from **May** to **August**.



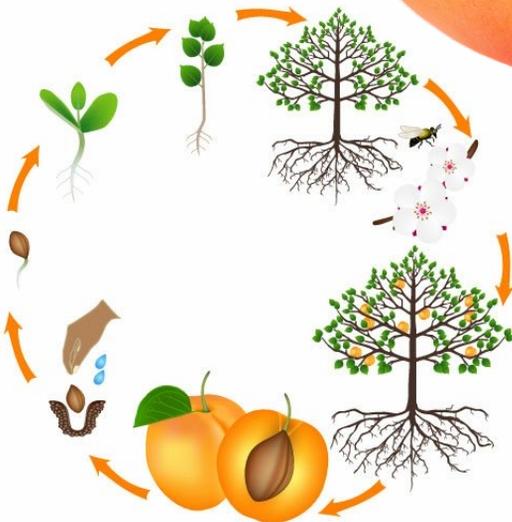
Apricots have been to the **moon!**



Apricots are grown on **every** continent except Antarctica.

Apricots are members of the **rose** family.

Apricot trees can produce fruit for up to **25 years**.



California

Artichokes

Nearly **ALL** artichokes grown commercially in the U.S. come from California.



Green Globe is the most popular variety of artichoke grown in California.

All artichokes are picked by **H A N D**.

Castroville, California is the self-proclaimed **Artichoke Center of the World**.

Artichokes are **immature** flowers that have not bloomed yet.

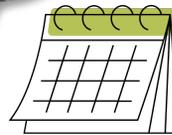


Artichokes are in season from **March - May**.



Harvest takes between **5 - 6 months** after planting.

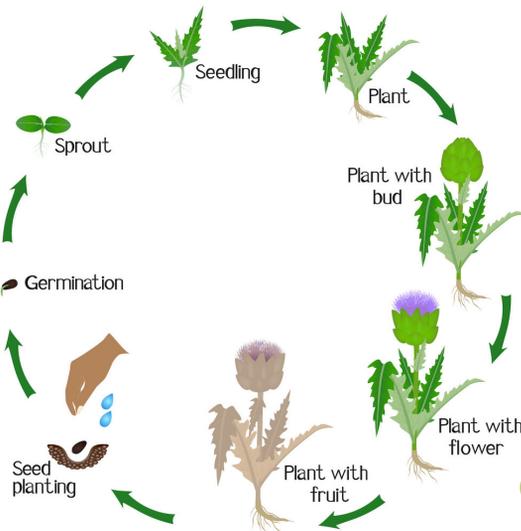
MARCH 16



National Artichoke Day

One artichoke plant can produce up to **20** artichokes per year!

Artichokes are a part of the **sunflower** family.



California

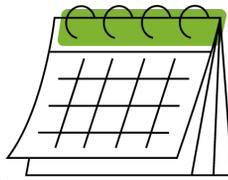
Arugula

California is the **#1** arugula producing state in the U.S.

90% of U.S. arugula is grown in California.

Arugula grown in California is **in season** year-round.

Arugula repels pests with its **spicy** smell and taste.



Arugula is a part of the **mustard** family.



Arugula prefers a cool climate to grow.



"Rocket" is a common nickname for arugula because of how fast it can grow.



Arugula grows **8 - 39 inches** tall!



Arugula is ready to harvest only **40 days** after planting.

California

Asparagus

California produces around **22%** of the asparagus grown in the U.S.

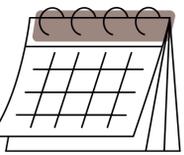
Asparagus is grown on **4,900 farms** across the U.S.

Asparagus is grown in **3 main regions** of California: **the southern desert valleys, the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta & the central coast.**



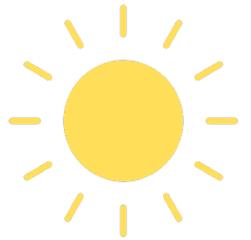
The harvesting period for asparagus lasts **70 - 80 days.**

Asparagus can be **green, purple** or **white!**

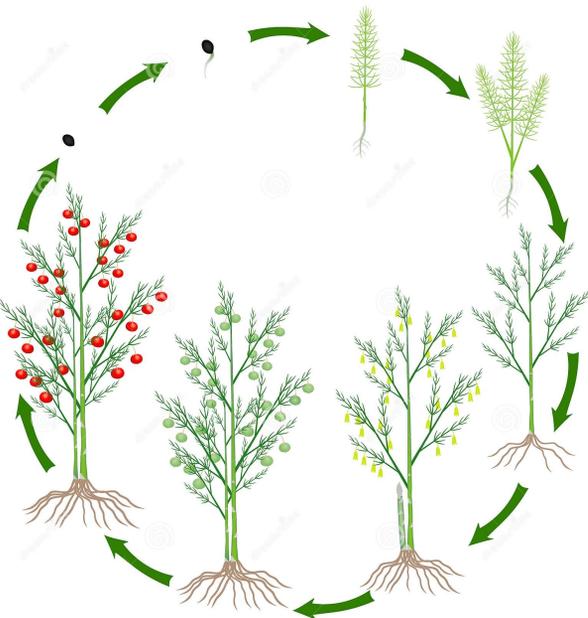


Asparagus can reproduce for up to **20 years!**

White asparagus is grown **without** sunlight.



Watch asparagus grow!



The **thicker** the stem, the **older** the plant.

If started from seed, asparagus takes up to **3 years** to mature.

Many farmers use **1 year old asparagus crowns** to speed up the harvesting process.



California

Avocados

CA produces ~ **400 MILLION** pounds of avocados per year.

California is the **LARGEST** producer of avocados in the U.S.

California is home to around **50,000 acres** of avocado orchards.



30-60 ft tall.

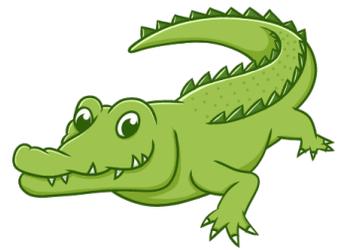
An avocado tree produces **60 lbs.** of avocados/year.

Avocados have the **most** fiber of any fruit!



Hass is the **most popular** variety of avocado.

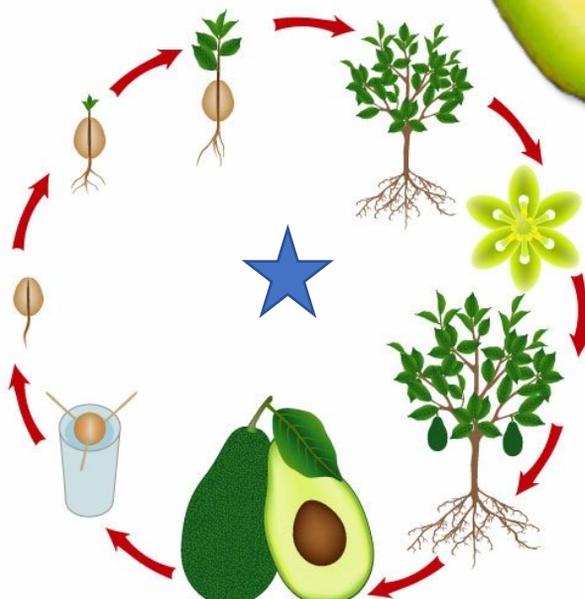
“Alligator Pears”



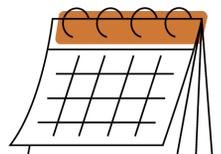
Avocados are a **FRUIT** – a “single-seeded berry”.

It takes a minimum of a **YEAR** to grow an avocado.

In season ALL year long!



Avocados ripen **AFTER** they are harvested.



California

Bell Peppers

California produces the **MOST** bell peppers in the U.S.

California produces **300 MILLION** pounds of bell peppers per year.



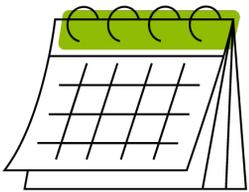
Bell peppers can be **2** to **6** inches long.



Most bell peppers are **harvested** by hand.

Bell peppers are in the same family as **tomatoes, eggplant,** and **potatoes.**

Bell peppers are grown all year-round.



Red bell peppers are also known as **sweet peppers.**



Bell peppers are a **FRUIT.**

ALL bell peppers are **GREEN** before they ripen.

Bell peppers transition from **green** to **yellow** to **orange** to **red** depending on how long they ripen.

Bell peppers get **sweeter** the longer they ripen.



California

Blueberries

Most California commercial blueberry farms are located in **San Joaquin Valley**.

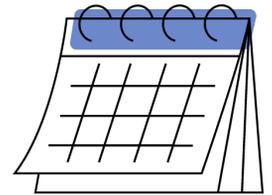
California's blueberry harvest runs from **April** through **June**.

4 Types of Blueberries:

Blueberries are native to **North America**.

1. Highbush
2. Lowbush
3. Hybrid Half-High
4. Rabbiteye

Highbush blueberries are the most common.



JULY is National Blueberry Month!

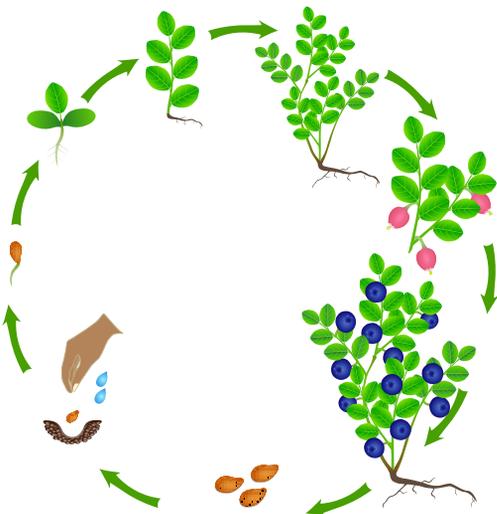
Lowbush blueberries are smaller & sweeter – perfect for making jam!

1 blueberry bush can produce **6,000** blueberries per year.



The waxy coating on blueberries is called **“bloom”**.

Protects from insects & bacteria.



California

Broccoli

California produces **90%** of the broccoli in all of the United States.

40% of California's broccoli comes from **Monterey County**.

CA produces approximately **1.8 BILLION** pounds of broccoli per year.

2 Forms of Broccoli:

1. Sprouting
2. Heading

Broccoli is made up of a bunch of tiny, unopened flowers.

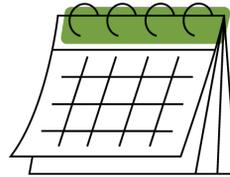


Broccoli is a **cool-season** vegetable.



Heading broccoli is the most common.

Broccoli grows **BEST** during fall & spring.

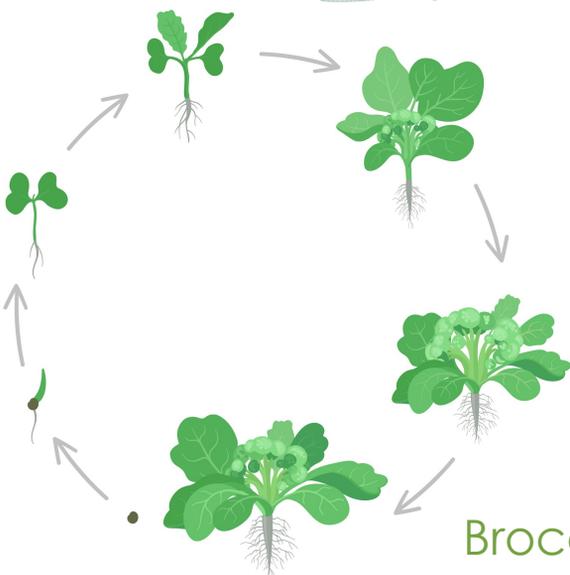


Broccoli is harvested all by **HAND**.

Broccoli takes **70-140** days to complete growing after planting.



Broccoli is a part of the **brassica** family.

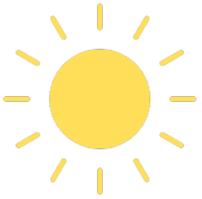


California

Brussels Sprouts

California is the # 1 producer of Brussels sprouts in the U.S

California produces **90%** of all brussels sprouts grown in the U.S.



Most Brussels sprouts from California are grown in the coastal areas of **San Mateo**, **Monterey** and **Santa Cruz** counties.

Brussels sprouts harvest season starts in **June**.



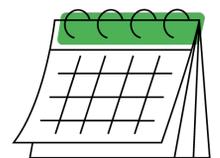
The U.S. produces around **70 million pounds** of brussels sprouts per year.



Brussels sprouts can grow to be as large as a **golf ball**.



Brussels sprouts grow best in **cool climates** and usually harvested after a frost.



Brussels sprouts take **90 - 180 days** to harvest after planting.



California

Cabbage

California produces **25%** of cabbage grown across the U.S.

Each year, California harvests around **14,600 acres** of cabbage.

540 MILLION pounds of cabbage is grown in California each year.

Cabbage is one of the **OLDEST** vegetables in existence...has been harvested for over **6,000 years!**

Cabbage is a “**cold-weather veggie**”.

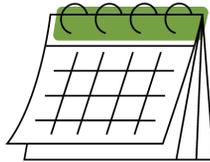
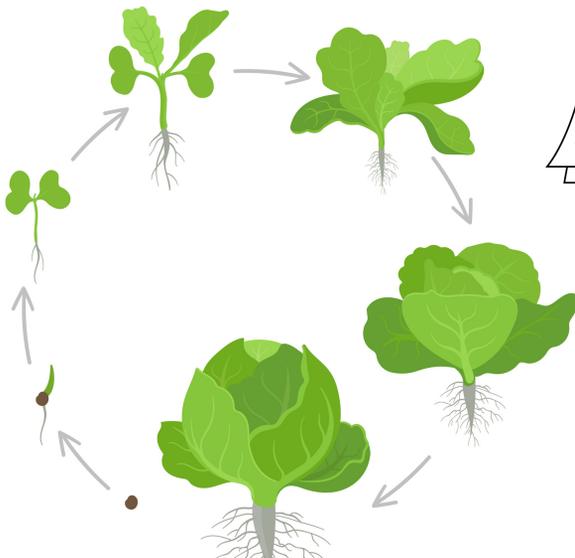


Average cabbage plant is **4 - 6 feet** tall.



Types of Cabbage:

1. Early
2. Late



Early cabbage takes **45 days** to mature, and late cabbage takes **87 days**.

400+ varieties of cabbage.

The most **popular** varieties of cabbage:

1. **Green Cabbage**
2. **Red Cabbage**
3. **Savoy Cabbage**

California

Cantaloupe

65% of all cantaloupes grown in the U.S. come from California.

CA produces around **690 MILLION** pounds of cantaloupe each year.

Most of the cantaloupe production in California is located in the **southern Joaquin Valley** – primarily **Fresno County**.

The most **popular** melon in the U.S.!

The actual name for cantaloupe is **“reticulated muskmelon”**.



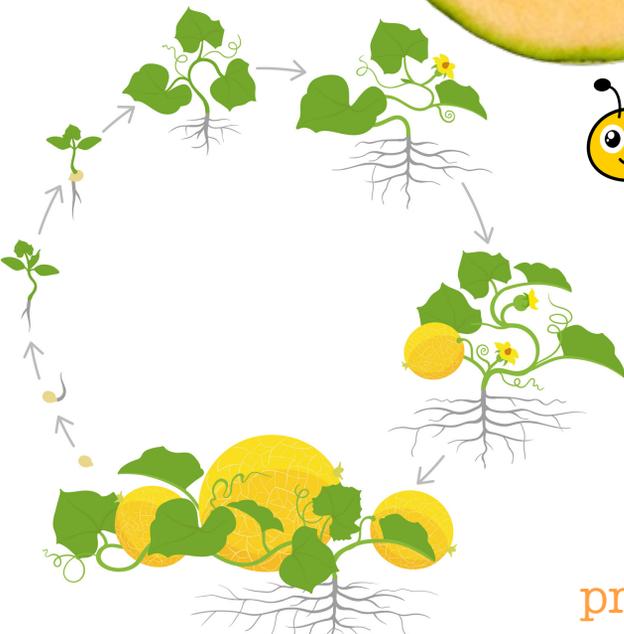
Do **NOT** continue to ripen once they are picked from the vine.

Their yellow flowers attract **honeybees** that pollinate the melon.



The vines that the cantaloupe is attached to can reach up to 5 ft long.

Cantaloupe take **90 days** to produce fruit after being planted.



California

Carrots

85% of all carrots grown in the U.S. come from California.

Around **61,000 acres** of carrots are harvested in California each year.

Carrots are **88%** water.

Carrots are the **second most popular** vegetable in the world, after potatoes.

Carrots take **4 months** to complete growing.

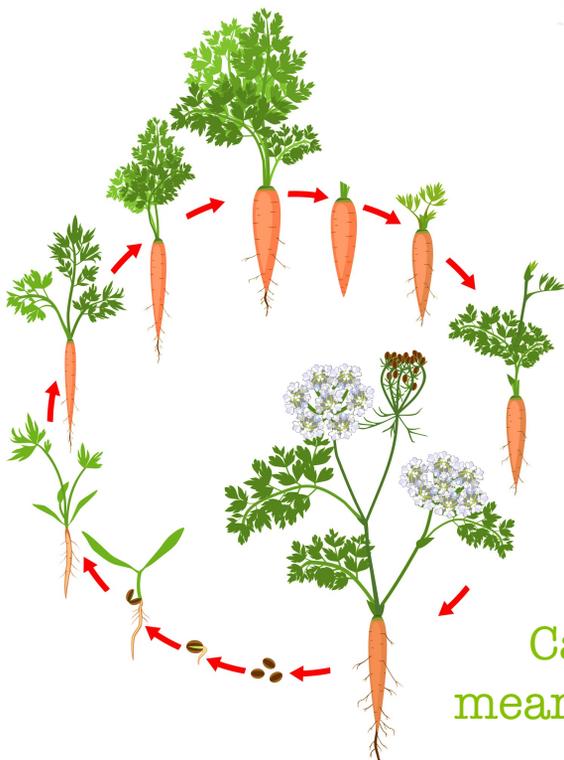
2,000 carrot seeds fit in **1 teaspoon**.

Carrots thrive in overall **cooler** temperatures.

Carrots can survive entire **WINTERS** underground!

The world record for the longest carrot is over **19 feet!**

Carrots are **biennials**, which means they have a 2-year life cycle.



California

Cauliflower

California is the **#1** producer of cauliflower in the U.S.

Much of the cauliflower grown in California comes from **Monterey County**.

90% of cauliflower grown in the U.S. comes from California.

“Cabbage Flower”



Cauliflower is a **cool-season** crop.

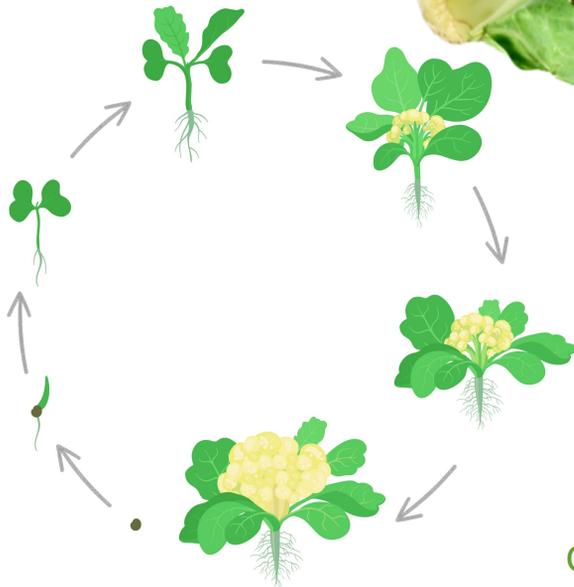
The **BIGGER** the cauliflower head, the **BIGGER** the flavor!

Cauliflower plants can grow to be **1.5 feet** tall.



Very sensitive to extreme weather.

Commercially, **white cauliflower** is the most common.



Cauliflower can also be **green, purple, orange, brown & yellow!**



There are **HUNDREDS** of different varieties of cauliflower.

California

Celery

California grows approximately **80%** of all celery grown in the U.S.

California grows about **28,000 acres** of celery.

The main celery growing areas in California are cool coastal districts – **Salinas** and **Santa Maria**.

The **darker** the celery stalks are, the more nutrients they contain.

Celery is a **long-season** crop that takes up to **140 days** to be ready to harvest after planting.

Celery is **95%** water.

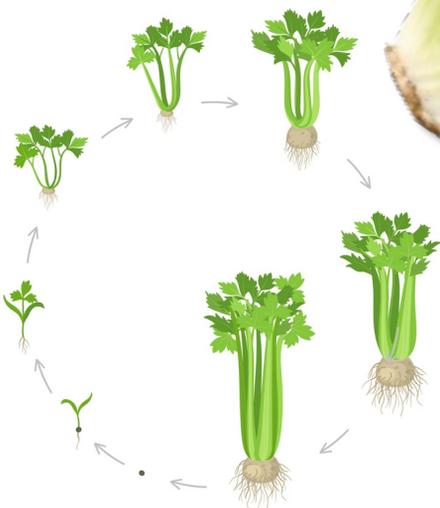
Celery and **carrots** are related.



1 ounce of celery seeds can produce **1 acre** of celery.

Celery stalks grow to be **12 - 18 inches tall**.

Celery is a **cool-season** crop.



California

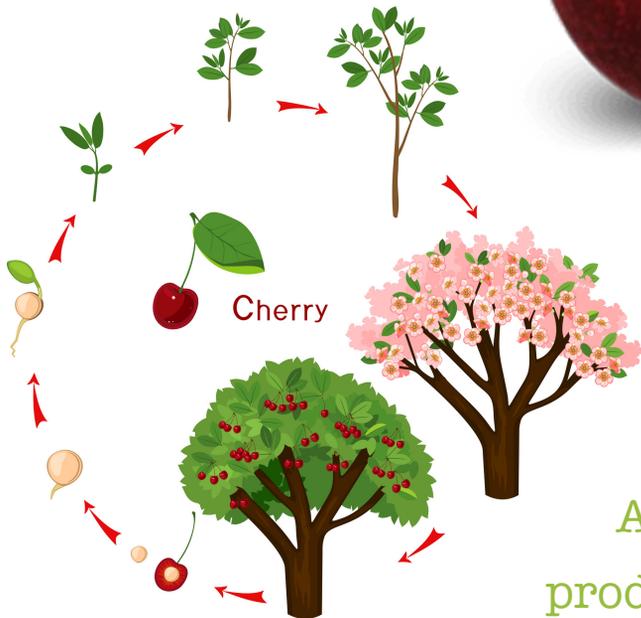
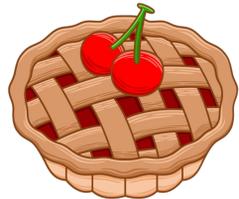
Cherries

California is the **second** largest **sweet cherry** producing state in the U.S.

2 main types of cherries: **tart** & **sweet**.

Bing cherries are the most famous variety of **sweet cherry**.

Tart cherries are most often used for baking.



San Joaquin county is the largest cherry producing county in California.

Honey bees are cherry trees main pollinators.

Over **1,000** varieties.

An entire cherry tree can be harvested in just 7 seconds.

Cherry trees can be up to

33 ft tall!

A typical cherry tree produces ~

7,000 cherries.

A cherry tree can survive and produce fruit for around **100** years.

California

Cucumbers

California is the **5th** largest cucumber producing state in the U.S.

The U.S. is the **4th largest** producer worldwide.

California grows more **fresh-market** cucumbers than pickling cucumbers.

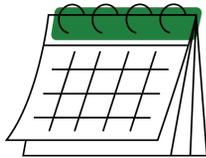
Cucumbers are

90%
water.



Cucumbers take **12 weeks** to produce fruit after being planted.

60 million tons grown worldwide each year.



They are a **fruit!**

Cucumbers can grow up to **2 feet** long!



The large leaves on the cucumber plant provides **shade** for the developing fruit.



Bees are **essential** for the pollination of cucumbers.



California

Dates

California grows **95%** of the dates grown in the U.S.

In California, dates are harvested in the **September, October & November.**

3 Types of Dates:

1. Ajwa dates
2. Noor dates
3. Medjool dates

Date Palms were first planted in the **Coachella Valley** of California in the **1890s.**



Dates are a **stone fruit.**

Dates are naturally **dehydrated.**

Medjool dates are the **MOST** popular.

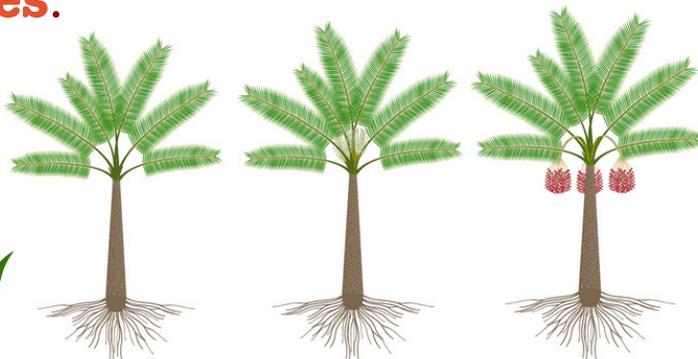


Medjool dates are known as the **King of Dates.**



Dates are **chewy & sweet.**

Dates are grown on **date palm trees.**



Date palms can grow up to **75 feet tall!**



California

Dragon Fruit

California grows between **100** to **200 acres** of dragon fruit.

The darker the dragon fruit, the **sweeter** it is.

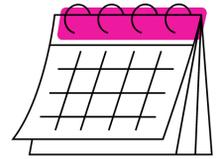
4 Types of Dragon Fruit:

1. Red skin/white flesh
2. Red skin/red flesh
3. Red skin/purple flesh
4. Yellow skin/white flesh

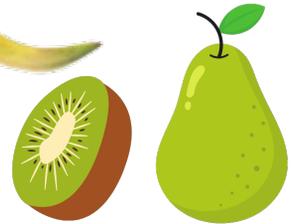


Most dragon fruit in California is grown in the **southern region**.

Dragon fruit is a **night-blooming** plant.



Peak season is **Aug – Sept**.



Dragon fruit tastes like a mix between a **kiwi** and a **pear**.

Dragon fruit plants grow to be up to **20 feet** tall.



Dragon fruit grows on a **“climbing cactus plant”**.



California

Garlic

90% of garlic grown in the U.S. is from California.

The U.S. produces **400 million pounds** of garlic each year.

2 Main Groups of Garlic:

1. Hardneck
2. Softneck

Gilroy, California is considered the **garlic capital of the world.**



300+ varieties of garlic grown around the world.

Garlic bulbs contain **7-15 cloves.**



A P R I L

National Garlic Month

Most garlic is ready to be harvested by **mid-July.**



Garlic plants can grow up to **4 feet tall!**

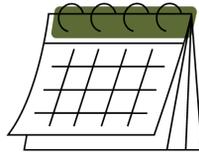


Garlic is ready to be **harvested** when the leaves begin to turn **YELLOW.**

California

Green Beans

California is home to **4,000 acres** of green beans.



CA green beans are available **9 months** out of the year.

Bush & pole are the 2 main types of green beans.

130+ varieties of green beans.



Try growing green beans in your garden!

Green beans are also known as “**string beans**” or “**snap beans**.”

Green beans are the **3rd most** home-grown vegetable.



The World's Tallest Bean Plant was over **45 feet tall.**



=

Equivalent to **3 fully-grown giraffes** stacked on top of one another.



String beans can be **green, yellow** or **purple!**



California

Grapefruit

Most of California's grapefruits are grown in the Desert Region - primarily **Coachella Valley** and **Imperial Valley**.

Florida, **California** & Texas are the top grapefruit producing states.



Grapefruits are harvested by hand.

"The Forbidden Fruit"

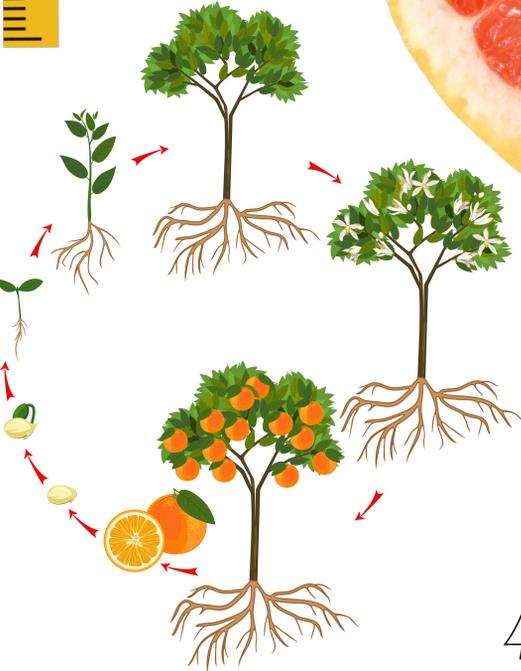


Grapefruit trees can reach up to **45 feet high**.



The U.S. grows the **MOST** grapefruits in the world.

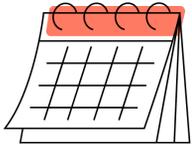
In the U.S. there are **20+** varieties of grapefruits grown.



Grapefruits grow in **clusters**...like grapes!



Up to 25 grapefruits per cluster.



Grapefruit trees take **6-13 months** to produce fruit.

California

Grapes

99% of all commercially grown grapes in the U.S. come from California.

90+

varieties of grapes are grown in California.



The majority of grapes from California are grown in the **Southern Central Valley**.

Grapes grown in CA are in season from **May - January**.

One vine produces around **40 clusters** of grapes.



America's oldest grapevine is **400 years old**...located in North Carolina.

Each cluster contains around **75** grapes.

Grapes are a type of **berry!**



Grapevines can reach up to **50 feet** in length.



Colors of grapes: **red**, **green**, **white**, **black**, **purple**, **blue** & **gold**.



California

Honeydew

Coming Soon!



California

Kiwifruit

98% of all kiwifruit grown in the U.S. comes from California.

Most kiwifruit in California is in season from **Oct – May**.

 The majority of kiwifruit grown in California is from **Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys**.

Over **1 MILLION TONS** of kiwifruit is grown each year worldwide.

ALL kiwifruit is harvested by hand.



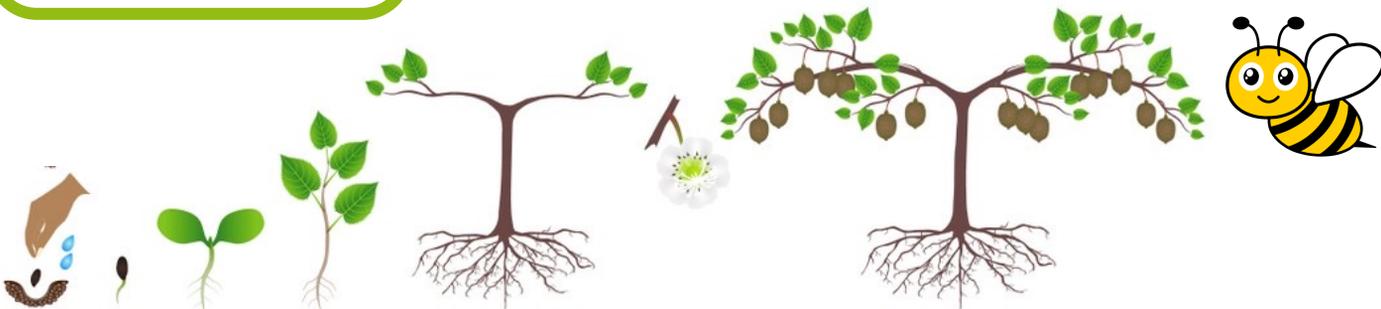
Kiwifruit has a very long growing season of **240 days**.



Kiwifruits grow on vines that can reach up to **33 feet long**.

Kiwifruit vines can produce fruit for up to **30 years**.

Bees are the main pollinators for kiwifruit.



California

Kumquats

Most kumquats grown in California are grown in the **southern region**.

2 Main Varieties of Kumquats:

1. Nagami
2. Meiwa

“**The little gold gem of the citrus family.**”

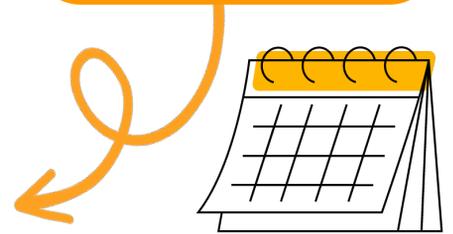


Kumquats grow on trees that range from **5 - 8 feet tall**.

Nagami kumquat trees are the **most planted** in the U.S.



The **peel** of a kumquat is the **sweetest** part of the fruit.



One kumquat tree can produce **THOUSANDS** of kumquats!

Kumquats are in season from

“**Golden Orange**” **November – April.**

Kumquat trees prefer to grow in **full sun.**



If you roll kumquats between your hands, they will release a natural oil that makes them **sweeter.**

Kumquat trees **flower** in late spring – early summer.



California

Lemons

California is home to **52,000 acres** of lemon trees.

Southern California grows the most lemons in the state.



Combined, Arizona and California grow **95%** of all lemons grown in the U.S.

California produces the **MOST** lemons in the U.S.



3 tbsp of juice in 1 lemon.

A lemon tree can live for **50 years**.

8 seeds per lemon.

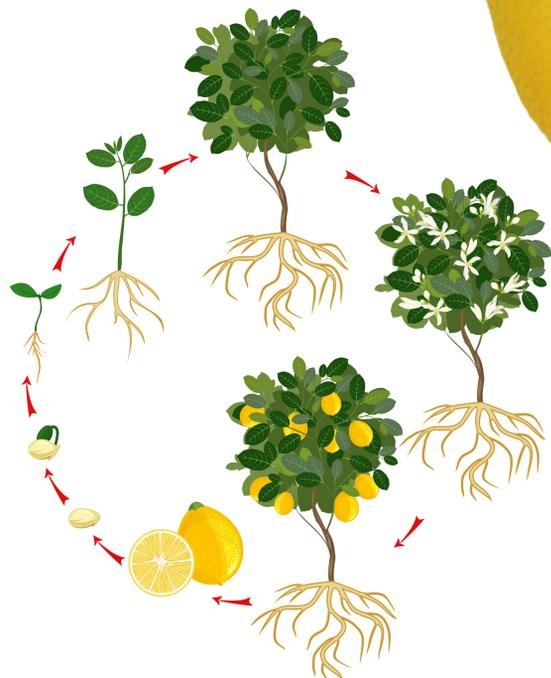
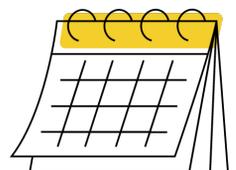


Lemons are technically **berries**.

Most common types of lemons: **Meyer, Eureka & Lisbon**.

Lemon trees can produce up to **600 pounds** of lemons every year.

Lemon trees produce fruit **ALL** year round.



California

Lettuce

California produces **70%** of all lettuce grown in the U.S.



California produces the most lettuce in **Monterey County**.

Darker green lettuce leaves are **MORE** nutritious than lighter green leaves.

4 Main Types of Lettuce:

MOST

LEAST

Lettuce prefers to grow in **colder climates**.



1. Butterhead
2. Crisphead
3. Looseleaf
4. Romaine



Lettuce is **95%** water.



Iceberg lettuce (also known as crisphead) is the most popular type of lettuce in the U.S.

Lettuce is a part of the **sunflower** family.



Lettuce is the **2nd** most popular vegetable in the U.S.

Because of lettuce's water %, it must always be eaten **FRESH**.



California

Limes

Limes are grown in areas of California that have **Mediterranean climates**.

4 Common Types of Limes:

1. Persian Lime
2. Key Lime
3. Kaffir Lime
4. Desert Lime

Limes are very sensitive to the cold and prefer to grow in areas with **full sun exposure**.

Limes are a good source of **vitamin C**.

Persian limes are the **MOST** popular variety of lime worldwide.



Limes get **sweeter** the longer they ripen.



Limes are more **fragrant** and **acidic** than lemons.

Limes trees can grow to be between **15 - 20 feet tall** depending on the variety.



Limes are **88%** water.



California

Milk

California is the **number 1** milk producing state in the U.S.

46% of California milk goes into making California cheese.

6

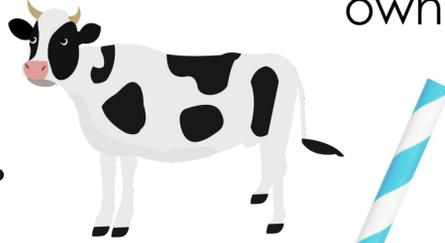
Breeds of Dairy Cows:

1. Ayrshire
2. Brown Swiss
3. Guernsey
4. Holstein
5. Jersey
6. Milking Shorthorn

Holstein cows all have a **unique pattern of spots!**

1 cow produces around **6 gallons** of milk per day.

The reason milk is white is because it contains **“casein”** - a type of protein.



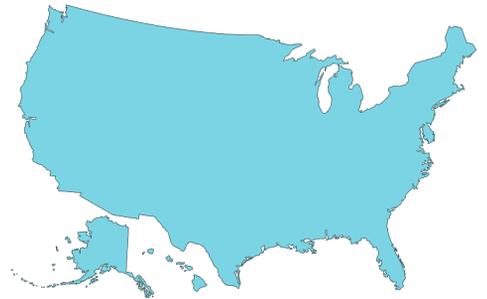
Farmers measure milk in **pounds**.

Milk is the source of **ALL** dairy products!

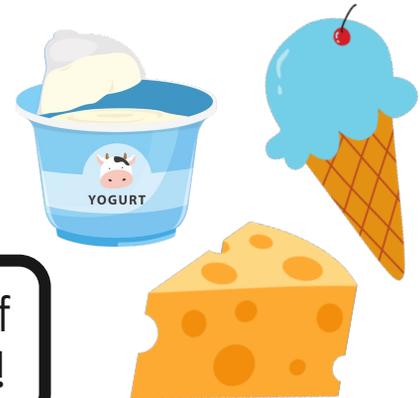
California is home to **1,100+** dairy farms.

Nearly **98%** of U.S. dairy farms are family owned & operated.

ALL 50 states have dairy farms!



The U.S. produces **~21 BILLION** gallons of milk each year.



California

Nectarines

Coming Soon!



California

Okra

Imperial County, California produces the most okra across the state.

In CA, Okra is usually planted in the **late spring** or **early summer**.

4 Common Types of Okra:

1. Clemson Spineless
2. Jambalaya
3. Star of David
4. Burgundy

~ **184 acres** of Okra grown in Imperial Co.



Okra **pods** are usually **2 - 3 inches** long.

“Lady fingers”

Okra is ready to harvest **60 - 70 days** after being planted.

Okra is

90%
water.



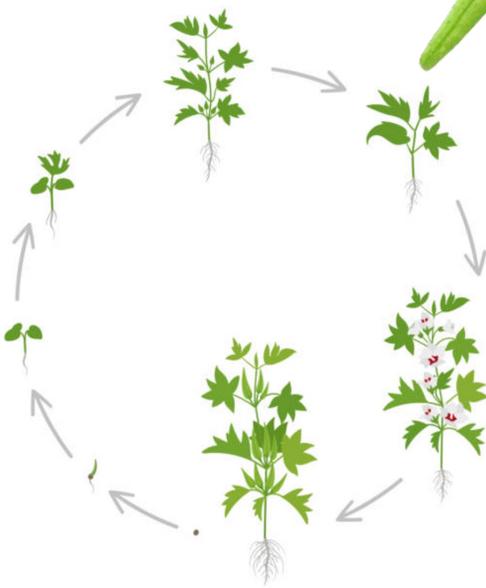
Okra plants thrive in **full sun**.



Okra plants can grow to be over **6 ft tall!**



Okra produces **hibiscus-like** flowers.



California

Olives

Coming Soon!



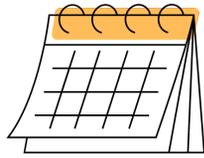
California

Oranges

California is home to **140,000 acres** of land that grows oranges.

85% of oranges are produced for making juice.

Valencia & Navel oranges are the most popular types grown in California.



Orange season is 9 months long, **October - June!**



600+ varieties of oranges.



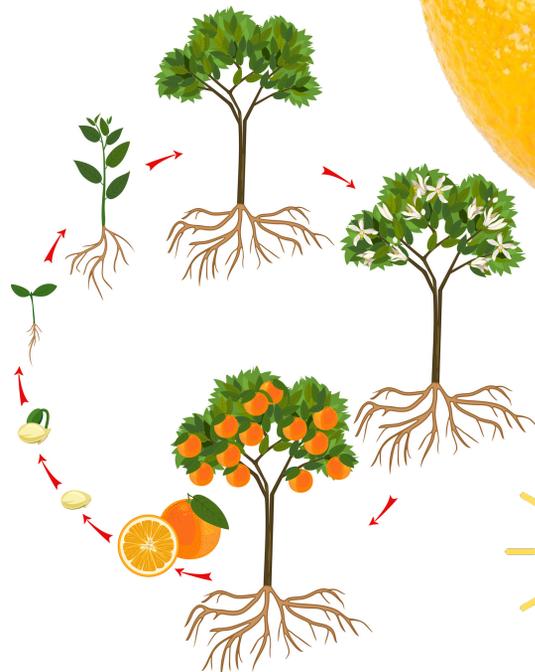
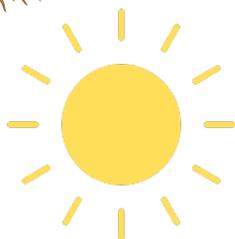
Vitamin C

Most oranges are harvested by hand.



Sub-tropical areas have ideal climate for growing oranges.

Oranges need a lot of **sunshine** and **warm** temperatures.



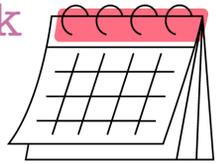
California

Passion Fruit

California is **one of only four states** in the U.S. that **commercially grow** passion fruit.



Passion fruit grown in California is typically in peak season during **September, October & November**.



The longer a passion fruit ripens, the **sweeter** it gets!

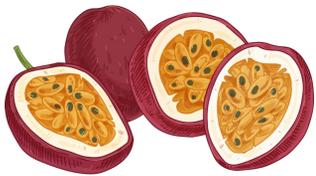
A type of **berry**.

Passion fruits take **7 - 8 weeks** to fully ripen.

The skin of a passion fruit transitions from green to purple as it **ripens**.



The **seeds** are the part of the passion fruit that is **eaten**.



Passion fruits begin to **wrinkle** as they mature.

The 2 main varieties of passion fruit are **purple & yellow**.



Passion fruits grow on **climbing vines** that can grow up to **15 feet long**.



California

Peaches

California is the **largest** peach producing state in the U.S.

California grows **more** peaches than all other states **COMBINED**.

2 Main Varieties of Peaches:

- 1.clingstone
2. freestone

1 peach tree can produce up to **66 pounds** of fruit per year.



Sutter County is the top county for growing peaches in California.

AUGUST

National Peach Month



Peaches are harvested by **HAND**.

“Persian plum”



Peach trees can produce fruit for **12 years**.

Peach trees usually grow to be around **25 feet tall**.



California

Pears

California is home to around **60 pear farms**.

The average size for a pear farm in California is **130 acres**.

Pears used to be called "**butter fruit**" because of their soft texture.

Over **3,000** varieties of pears.



The majority of pear farms in California are **family owned**.



Pear tree **wood** is often used to make musical instruments.



Pears ripen best **after** they are picked.

Pears are a part of the rose family.



Pears prefer to grow in **cooler** climates.



The most **fragile** fruit.

30-40 ft. tall trees.



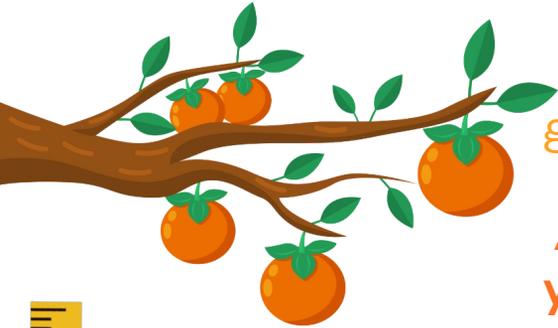
ALL pears are picked by **HAND**.

Common types of pears: **Anjou, Bartlett, Bosc, Comice & Forelle**.

California

Persimmons

Most persimmons grown in California are from **Fresno, Tulare & San Diego** counties.



The **majority** of all persimmons grown in the U.S. are from **California**.

A persimmon tree can take up to **7 years** before it starts producing fruit.

Persimmon trees can be **15 - 20 feet tall**.



This is a **fuyu** variety of persimmon.



Persimmons are native to **China**.



Persimmons can be **yellow, orange or red**.

2 types of commercially grown persimmons: **hachiya & fuyu**.

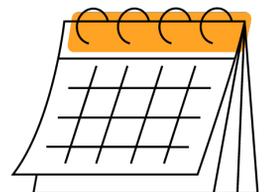


Persimmons are a part of the **berry** family.

Persimmons prefer to grow in **warm climates** with **full sun**.



Persimmons are in season from **Sept - Dec**.



California

Plums

California is the **largest plum producing state** in the U.S.

4 Common Varieties of Plums:

1. Damson
2. Greengage
3. Victoria Plum
4. Mirabelle Plum



All varieties of plums have a **unique color & flavor.**



Plums are grown on **EVERY continent** except Antarctica.

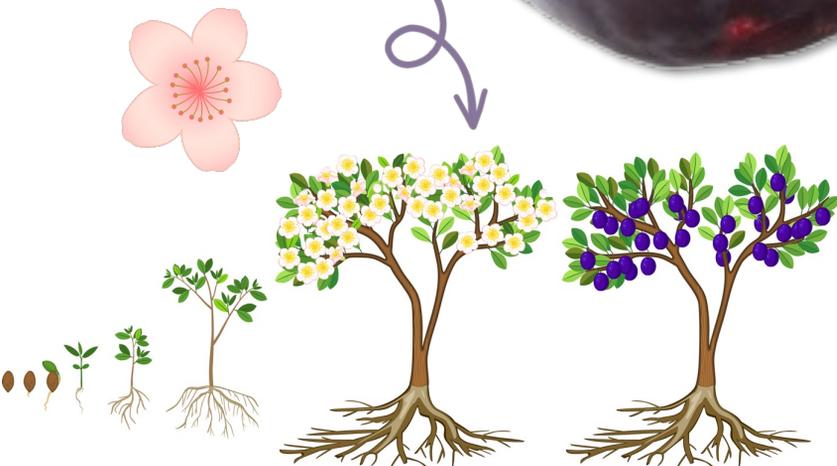
Dried plums are known as **“prunes.”**



The number of species to exist of plums is **unknown.**

Plums trees start to bloom in the **early spring.**

Plum trees can live for **20 – 30 years.**



Plum trees can grow to be **20 - 33 feet tall.**

California

Pluots

California grows **more** pluots than any other state in the U.S.

Pluots were developed in **California** in **1989** by **Floyd Zaiger**.

A pluot is a **hybrid fruit** that is a combination of a **plum** and an **apricot**.

Over **80** different varieties of pluots.



Plum

+



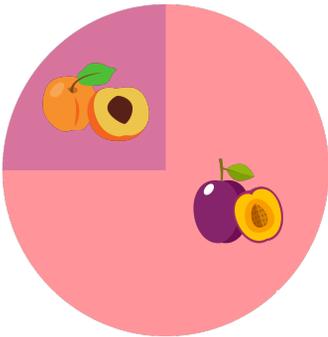
Apricot

=

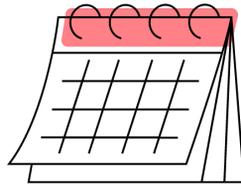


Pluots are a **stone fruit**.

Many varieties of pluots have fun names like **Flavor King, Dapple Dandy, Flavor Fall & Dinosaur Egg**.



Pluots are around **25%** apricot and **75%** plum.



Pluots are in season from **May - September**.



Pluots come in a variety of colors – **green, yellow, crimson, dappled, streaked** or **plum**.

Pluots are known for their **sweet** flavor.

California

Potatoes

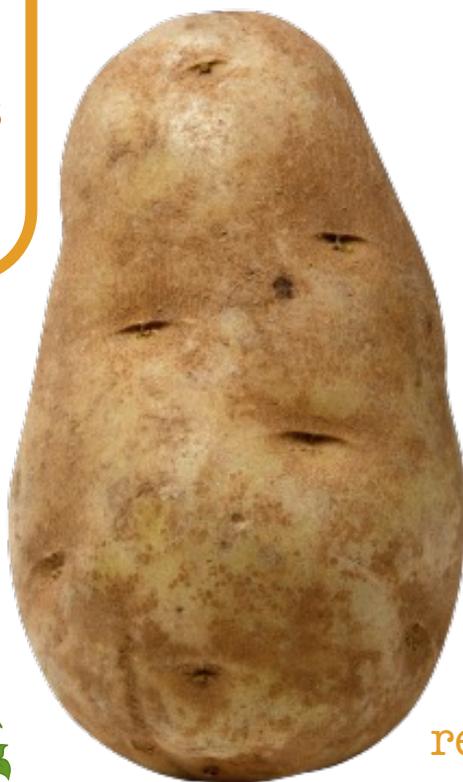
California is home to around **19,000 acres** of potatoes.

Due to climate, many regions of California can grow potatoes **year-round**.

U.S. farmers produce around **4.5 million pounds** of potatoes every hour.

In 1995, potatoes became the first vegetable grown in **space!**

Potatoes are the **second** most consumed food in the U.S. after dairy products.



AUGUST 13

National Potato Day

Potatoes are also referred to as **“spuds”**.

Potatoes are grown **underground**.

Potatoes are an **annual** plant.

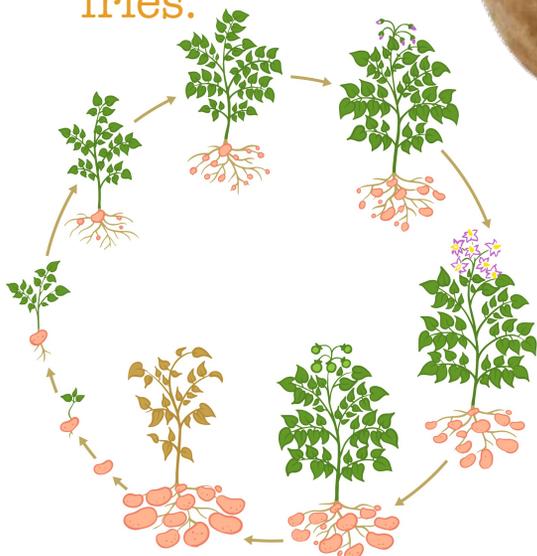


Potatoes are a part of the **nightshade** family.



35%

of potatoes are turned into French fries.



California

Pumpkins

The majority of pumpkins commercially grown in California are from **San Joaquin County**.



The U.S. produces over **1.5 BILLION** pounds of pumpkins each year.



45+ varieties of pumpkins.

Pumpkin pie is the **most popular** Thanksgiving dessert.

Pumpkins range in color from **red, yellow, green & orange!**



Pumpkins are grown on **EVERY** continent except Antarctica.

500

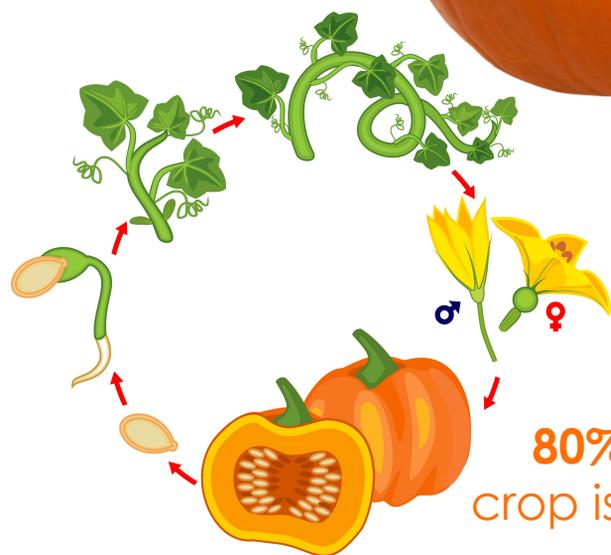
seeds/pumpkin.



Pumpkins are **90%** water.



80% of the U.S. pumpkin crop is available in **OCTOBER**.



California

Raspberries

California is the **#1** raspberry producing state in the U.S.

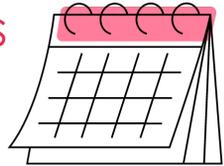
In California, **16,500 pounds** of raspberries are harvested per **acre**.

Top 4 raspberry growing counties in California include **Ventura, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara & Monterey**.



Raspberries are a part of the **rose** family.

California raspberries are in season from **April - December**.



Raspberry plants can live for up to **10 years**.



200+ varieties of raspberries.

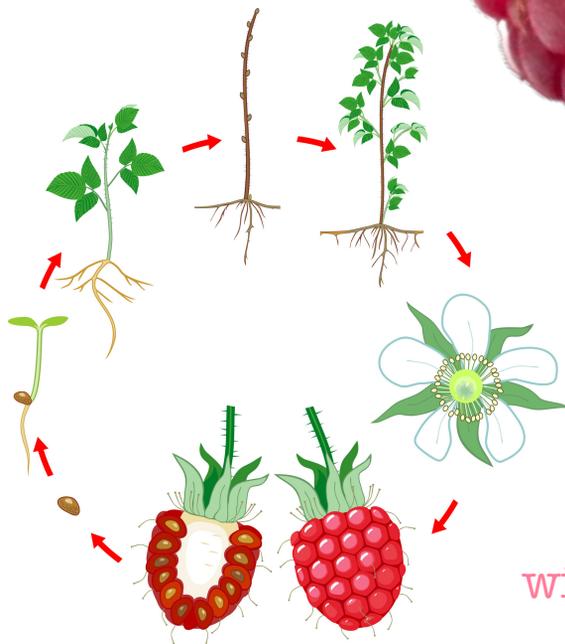
1 raspberry plant can produce **300+** raspberries per year.

Gold raspberries are the **SWEETEST!**

Depending on the variety, raspberries can be **purple, gold or black**.



Raspberries grow best in places with **cool summers & mild winters**.



California

Rice

Rice is grown on **550,000 acres** of land in California.



95% of rice grown in California is from **Sacramento Valley**.

California is the largest grower of **sushi rice** in the U.S.



Over **40,000** types of rice.

Rice is grown on approximately **2.8 million** acres of land across the U.S.

Uncooked white rice will stay fresh & edible for **10-30 YEARS!**



White rice is just brown rice that has been polished of its outer bran layer.



Steps to harvesting rice: **cutting, stacking, handling, threshing, cleaning & hauling.**

Rice plants can grow up to **6 feet** tall.



California

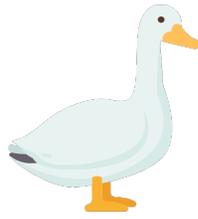
Spinach

California is the **#1** spinach producing state in the U.S.

California grows **75%** of all spinach grown in the U.S.

3 Main Types of Spinach:

1. Savoy
2. Semi Savoy
3. Flat-Leaf



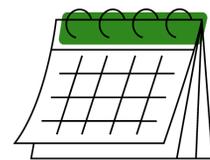
Spinach is a part of the “**goosefoot family**” because of the shape of its leaves.

FRESH spinach is the **BEST** spinach!



Spinach loses half of its major nutrients **8 days** after harvesting.

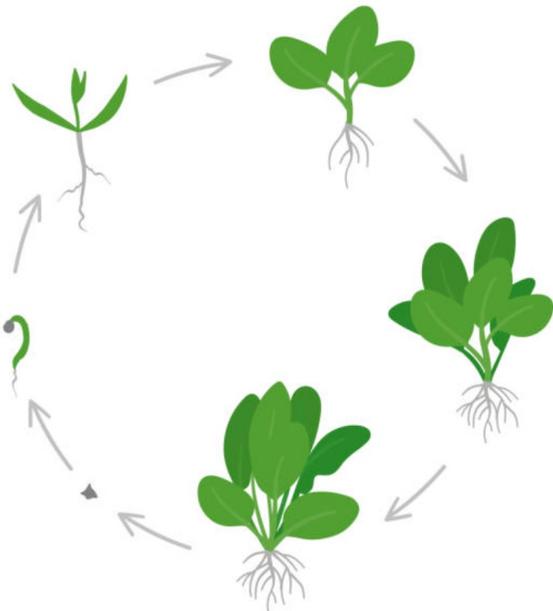
Flat-Leaf spinach is the best known & most popular.



Late spring/early summer is peak spinach season.

Spinach thrives when grown in **sandy** soils.

Spinach prefer to grow in **cooler** climates.



California

Squash

California is the **#1** squash producing state in the U.S.

California harvests around **6,100 acres** of squash each year.

TWO Types of Squash: **WINTER** & **SUMMER**

Examples of winter squash are **pumpkins, acorn & butternut.**



Winter squash has much **harder** skin than summer squash.



Examples of summer squash are **zucchini, yellow & scallop.**

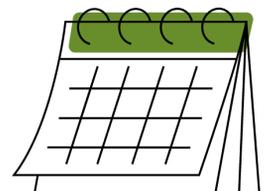
Summer squash grows **faster** than winter squash.

Squash are a **fruit!**



Squash are related to **melons!**

1 acre of land could grow around **11,000** squash!



Winter squash takes **80 - 120 days** to mature after being planted.

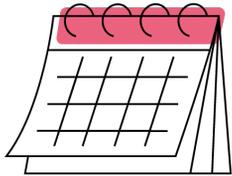
California

Strawberries

California produces nearly **90%** of all strawberries grown in the U.S.

One acre of land can produce **50,000** pounds of strawberries.

In California, strawberries are available **year-round**.



Strawberries are the **FIRST** fruit to ripen in the spring.

Strawberries are grown on only **1%** of California's farmland.

Main types of strawberries:
June-bearing,
Ever-Bearing &
Day-Neutral.

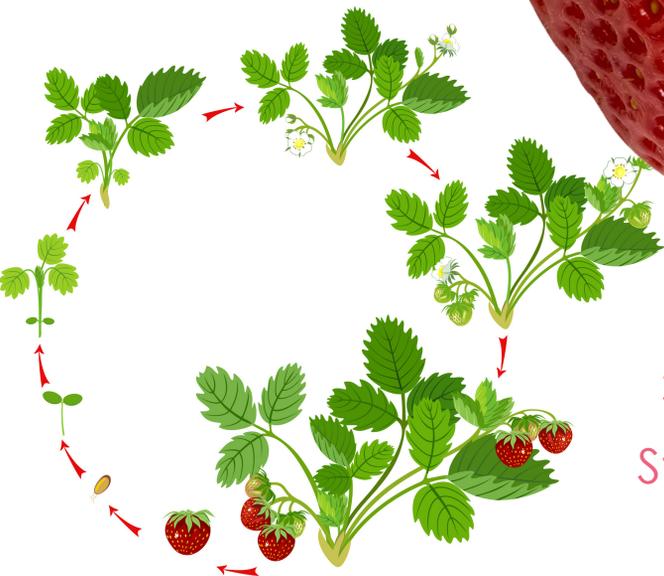
All strawberries are hand picked.



The average strawberry has **200** seeds.

Strawberries are the **ONLY** fruit with seeds on the outside.

Strawberries are a part of the **rose** family.



California

Sunflowers

Most of the sunflowers grown in California come from **Sacramento Valley**.

Sunflower **seeds** are a popular snack for baseball players.



Sunflowers aren't *always* **yellow** – they also can be **red**, **purple** or **brown**!

The world record for **TALLEST sunflower** was 30 feet and 1 inch tall.



Sunflowers symbolize positivity.



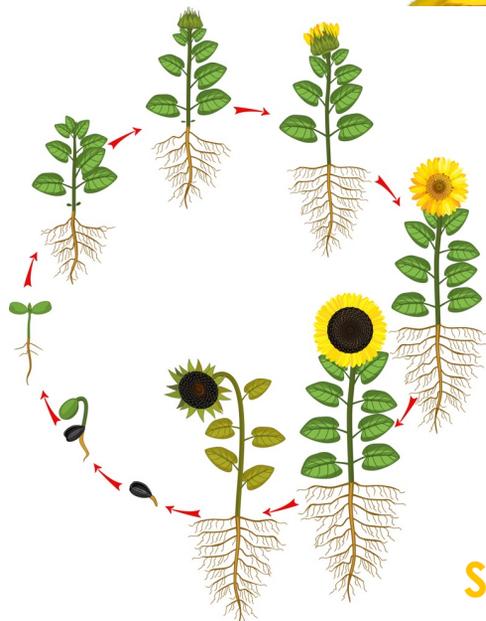
Sunflowers are at **PEAK** bloom in mid-summer.



The head of a sunflower is made up of **thousands** of tiny flowers.

Young sunflowers turn and face the **sun** as it rises and then continue to follow throughout the day.

Sunflowers follow the SUN!



California

Sweet Corn

California harvest around **26,000 acres** of sweet corn each year.

All **50 states** grow sweet corn – find some at your local farmer's market!

In many other countries, corn is called "**maize.**"

Only **1%** of the corn grown in the U.S. is sweet corn.

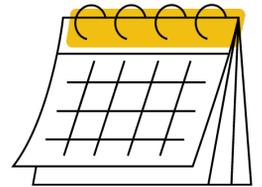
Corn is considered a **grain, fruit & vegetable.**



California is **1 of the top 5** sweet corn producing states.

An ear of corn **ALWAYS** has an even number of rows.

Sweet corn is in *peak* season from **May - Sept.**



Around **800** kernels on each ear of corn.

Sweet corn is pollinated by the **wind.**

Sweet corn is the **ONLY** corn grown for **human** consumption.

Each stalk produces **1 - 3** ears of corn.

California

Sweet Potatoes

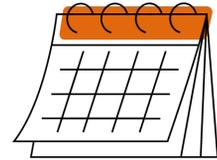
Over 85% of California's sweet potato production is located in **Merced County**.



Sweet potatoes are a popular **Thanksgiving** side dish.



Approximately **600 million pounds** of sweet potatoes are harvested in California each year.



Sweet potato roots are harvested **90-120** days after planting.



FEBRUARY
National Sweet Potato Month

A **root** vegetable.



Jewel is the most popular variety of sweet potato.



Sweet potatoes are in season **YEAR-ROUND!**

Sweet potatoes can be **orange, yellow, red, white** or **purple**.



California

Tangerines

69,000 acres of land in California is used to harvest tangerines.

28% of tangerines grown in the U.S. come from California.

Tangerine trees are much **smaller** than most other citrus fruit trees.

Over half of California's tangerines come from **San Joaquin Valley**.



"Easy Peelers"
Tangerines are easier to peel than most other citrus fruit.

Tangerine trees grow to be **10-15 feet tall**.

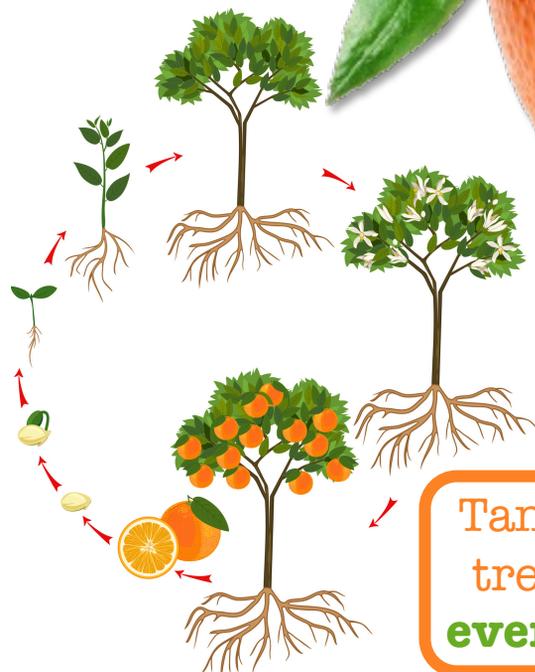


Tangerines are known for their **BIRGHT** orange peel.

1 tangerine tree can produce up to **7,000 tangerines** per season.

Tangerine trees are **evergreen**.

Out of all citrus fruits, tangerines are the most resilient to cold weather.



California

Tomatillos

Tomatillos are grown in **many** parts of CA.

Common varieties of tomatillos grown in California: **Rendidora, De Milpa, Toma Verde & Purple.**



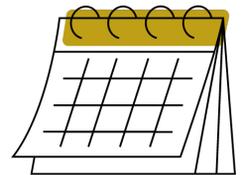
Tomatillo translates to **“little tomato”** in Spanish.

Tomatillo plants grow up to be **2 - 3 feet** tall.



Tomatillos are also commonly known as the **“Mexican husk tomato”**.

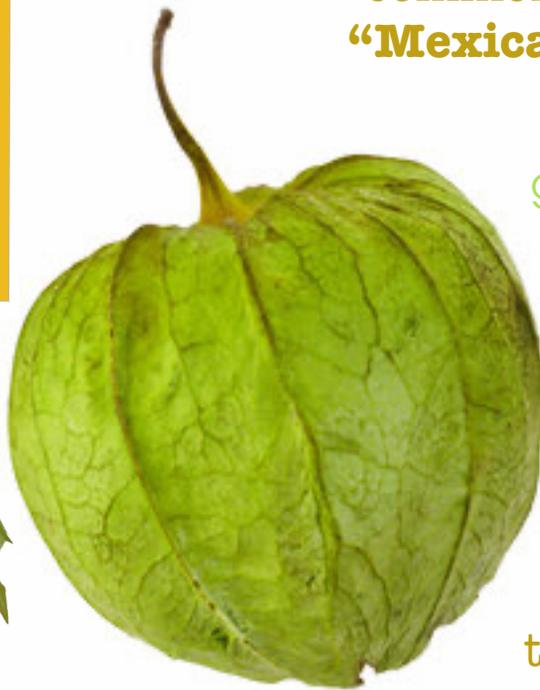
Tomatillos have a growing season of **75 – 100 days.**



Tomatillos have been cultivated in the U.S. since **1863.**



1 tomatillo plant can produce as many as **200 tomatillos** in a season.



Tomatillos are native to **Mexico.**



California

Tomatoes

90% of processing tomatoes in the U.S. come from California.

3 Popular Types of Tomatoes:

1. Cherry
2. Grape
3. Roma



Tomatoes come in a **variety** of colors.



Processing tomatoes

are mainly used to make ketchup, juice, sauce, etc.



“Wolf peach”



Botanically, tomatoes are a **fruit!**

93% of

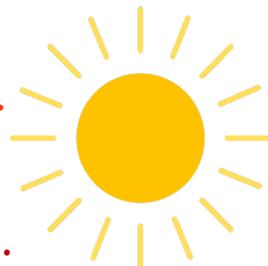
Americans grow tomatoes in their own garden.

Over **10,000** varieties of tomatoes.

Tomatoes are grown in **ALL** 50 states!

Tomatoes are at peak harvest **July - September.**

Tomatoes are a warm season crop that **love** the sun.



California

Watermelon

California produces approximately **330,000 tons** of watermelon each year.



Watermelons from California are mainly grown in **northern Central Valley, Central Valley** and **southern deserts**.

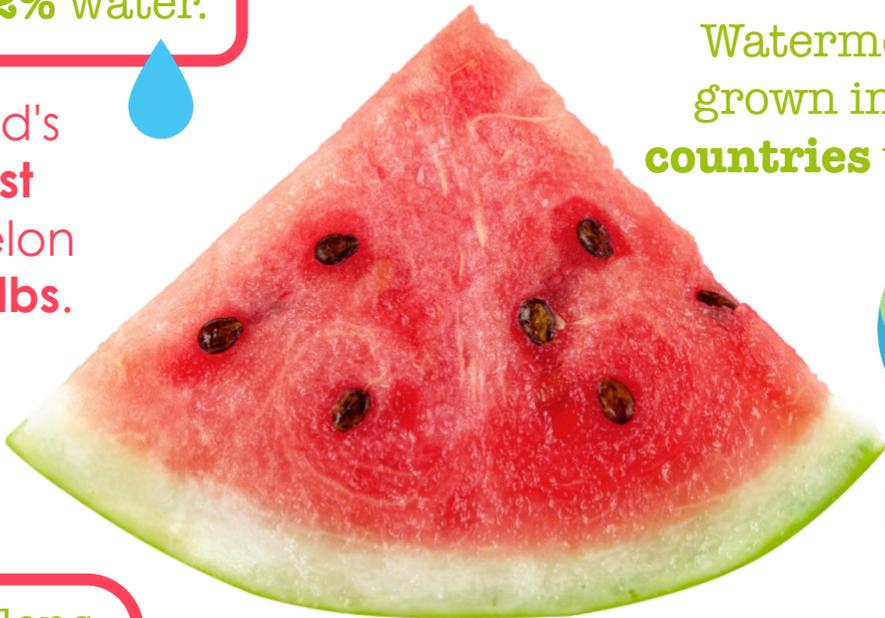
Watermelons are **92%** water.



California watermelons are harvested **May - October**.

Watermelons are grown in over **96 countries** worldwide.

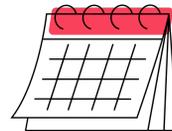
The world's **heaviest** watermelon was **262 lbs.**



Harvested by hand.

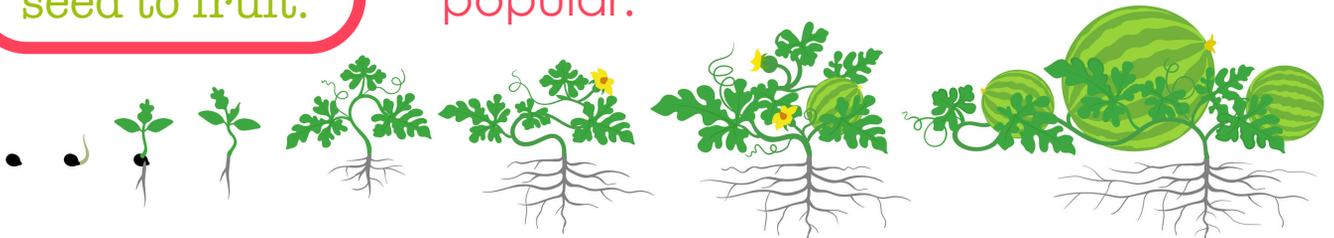
Watermelons take **90** days to grow from seed to fruit.

Seedless watermelon are most popular.



JULY

National Watermelon Month



California

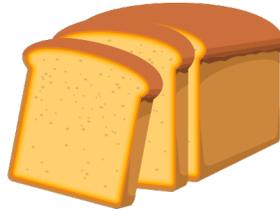
Wheat

California produces on average,
1.1 million tons of wheat each year.

1 bushel of wheat
contains around
100,000,000
individual kernels.

6 Classes of Wheat Grown in the U.S.

1. Hard Red Winter
2. Hard Red Spring
3. Soft Red Winter
4. Soft White
5. Durum



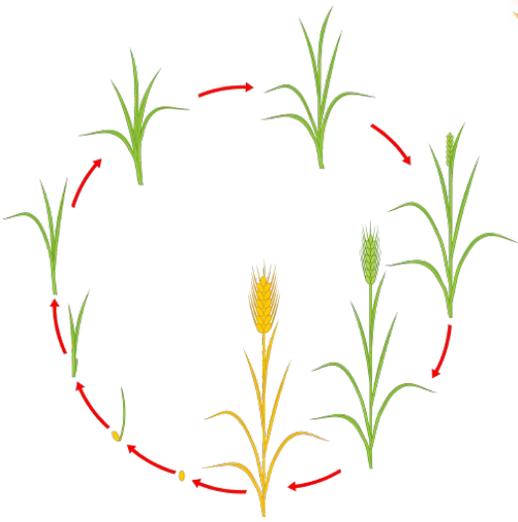
1 bushel of wheat
can produce **90**
loaves of bread.

Hard Red Winter
wheat is used mostly
for making **breads.**

1 acre =
40 bushels
of wheat.

The average
wheat crop
grows to be
between
2 & 4 feet tall.

Wheat grows best
in **warm** weather.



Wheat is the
MOST harvested
crop in the world.



LearnAboutAg.org

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

Teaching Resources Student Center Grants/Scholarships

Popular Resources

Agricultural Fact and Activity Sheets

Information compiled by California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

These California-specific fact sheets include information about natural resources or commodity production, history, nutrition, top producing counties, and economic values. The activity sheets provide specific lesson ideas and fun facts for each topic. The lesson plan is aligned to current California Education Standards.

- Agricultural Water
- Alfalfa
- Almonds
- Apples
- Artichokes
- Asparagus
- Avocados
- Beef
- Bees
- Bell Peppers
- Blueberries
- Cantaloupe
- Cherries
- Citrus Fruits
- Cling Peaches
- Corn
- Cotton
- Cut Flowers
- Dairy
- Dry Beans
- Eggs
- Forest Resources
- Fresh Carrots
- Green (Snap) Beans
- Herbs
- Invasive Species
- Lettuce
- Mushrooms
- Pears
- Picking Cucumbers
- Pistachios
- Plant Nutrients - Nitrogen
- Plant Nutrients - Potassium
- Pork
- Poultry
- Processing Tomatoes
- Prunes
- Rice
- Spinach
- Strawberries
- Table Grapes
- Table Olives
- Walnuts

Top 10 Ways to Use Agricultural Fact and Activity Sheets

- Ag Learning Events:** Information and fun activities for young students who are just starting to learn about agriculture.
- Bulletin Board Ideas:** Highlight each student's different commodity or natural resource. Students design a weekly bulletin board and engage their peers in a virtual scavenger hunt.
- World Geography Connection:** Where do these California commodities originate? Students create a world map, illustrating country of origin.
- History Connection:** Highlight the state mentioned on each commodity sheet. Create a timeline that goes all around the classroom, using words and images to record these significant moments in agriculture.
- Math Connection:** Students use numbers found within the facts sheets to create an appropriate graph of their choice. For example, create a pie chart representing the usage of different produce that are used for food, animal, and other uses.
- Agricultural Marketing:** Students use the information on fact sheets to develop jingles, slogans, and commercials. Develop the importance of a strong and positive marketing campaign for agriculture.
- Ag Science Project Ideas:** Fact sheets are a starting point of ideas for researching and experimenting with different agricultural commodities and natural resources.
- Language Arts/English Connection:** Students read the text of the fact sheet and demonstrate their reading comprehension by writing a summary or writing questions and then exchanging with a partner. Students select all the information on a separate sheet of paper using proper grammar and citing of references.
- Nutrition Connection:** Students compare the nutritional values of various agricultural commodities and explain the human body's use of specific vitamins. Students identify which commodities fit the different four categories.
- Add some spice to your lessons!** Find a new method for teaching everything from alfalfa to water.

Ag-Bites...

Bite-sized activities for bringing agriculture into your classroom. These one-page, standards-aligned sheets explain how to perform hands-on learning activities with students in grades K-12.

- Tealby Gardens (2-5)
- Cowboy Brands (3-4)
- Ice Cream in a Bag (1-3)
- Water Cycle in a Cup (5-8)
- Making Recycled Paper (K-3)
- Apples and Earth (3-5)
- Link Ems (5-8)
- Tops or Bottoms (K-3)
- Tasty Tasting (9-12)
- A Journey Through a Rice Mill (9-12)
- Asparagus (4-6)
- Got Quail? (3-5)
- Roll of the Genes (3-5)
- Soy Cheese (9-12)
- Drive Through Nutrition (3-8)