

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

LEARN⁺™ more

Florida Agriculture

Full of Food, Farmers & Fun!



20
Crops

E N R I C H M E N T

Florida Agriculture

LEARN More



Avocados



Beans



Bell Peppers



Blueberries



Cabbage



Cantaloupe



Cucumbers



Dragon Fruit



Grapefruit



Okra



Oranges



Potatoes



Squash



Strawberries



Sugar cane



Sweet Corn



Tangerines



Tomatillos



Tomatoes



Watermelon

Florida

Avocados

Miami-Dade and Collier county produce the most avocados in the state of Florida.

Florida avocados are in season from **June - January**.

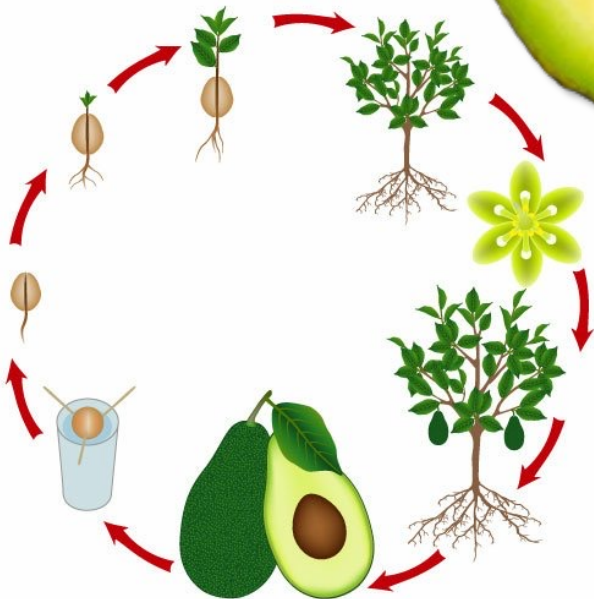
50+ types of avocados are grown in FL.



30-60
ft tall.

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

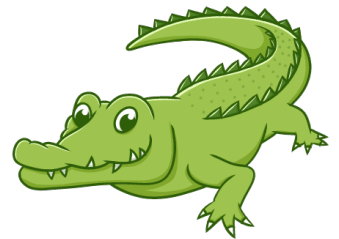
Avocados ripen **after** they are harvested.



Top **3** Avocado Producing States:

1. California
2. Florida
3. Hawaii

“Alligator Pears”



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

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

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

Florida

Green Beans

Florida ranks **second** in the U.S. for production of green beans.

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



Try growing green beans in your garden!

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

During winter months, **FL produces 100%** of U.S. green beans.

130+ varieties of green beans.

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



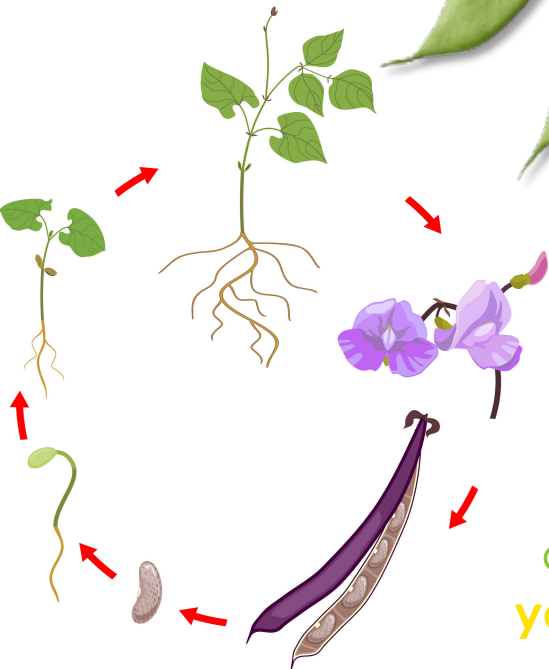
The World's Tallest Bean Plant was over **45 feet tall.**



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



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



Florida

Bell Peppers

Florida produces over **300 MILLION pounds** of bell peppers each year.

Florida produces around **30%** of all bell peppers grown in the U.S.



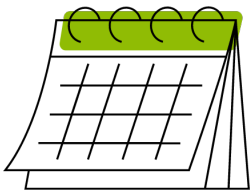
Bell peppers can be **2 to 6** inches long.



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.



Florida

Blueberries

Florida produces around **20 million pounds** of blueberries per year.

FL has over **5,200 acres** of blueberry fields.

4 Types of Blueberries:

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

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



Highbush blueberries are the most common.

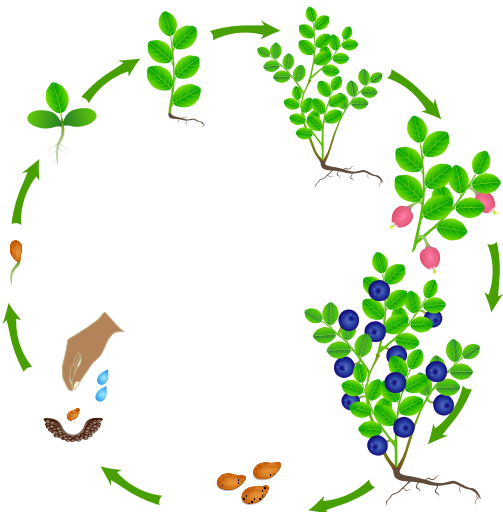
Blueberries are native to North America.

JULY is National Blueberry Month!

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

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

Protects from insects & bacteria.



Florida

Cabbage

Florida ranks **third** nationally in the production of cabbage.

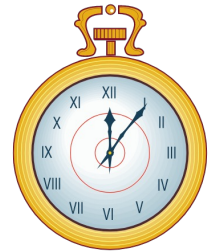
Cabbage grows best in a lot of **sunlight**.



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

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

Peak season is from **November** to **April**.

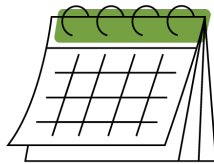


Types of Cabbage:

1. Early
2. Late

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

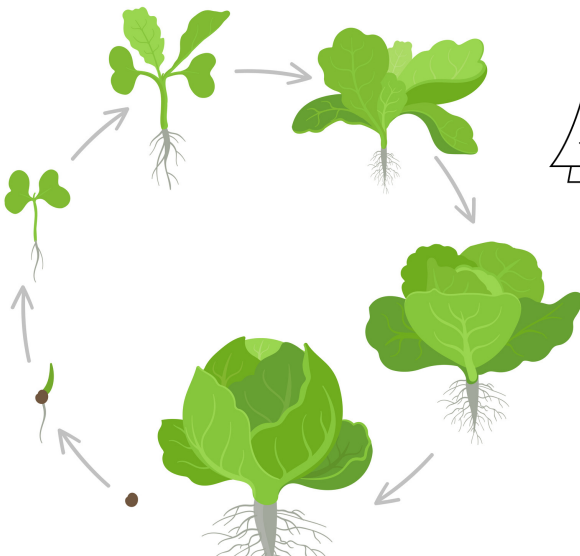
Early cabbage takes **45 days** to mature, and late cabbage takes **87 days**.



400+ varieties of cabbage.

The most **popular** varieties of cabbage:

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



Florida

Cantaloupe

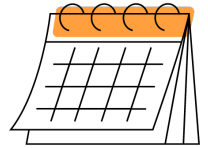
Most cantaloupe grown in Florida can be found throughout **Central Florida** and the **Panhandle**.

5 Types of Cantaloupe grown in Florida:

1. Ambrosia
2. Honey Rock
3. Galia
4. Athena
5. Minnesota Midget

“**Reticulated Muskmelon**”

Cantaloupe grown in Florida is in season from **April - June**.



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

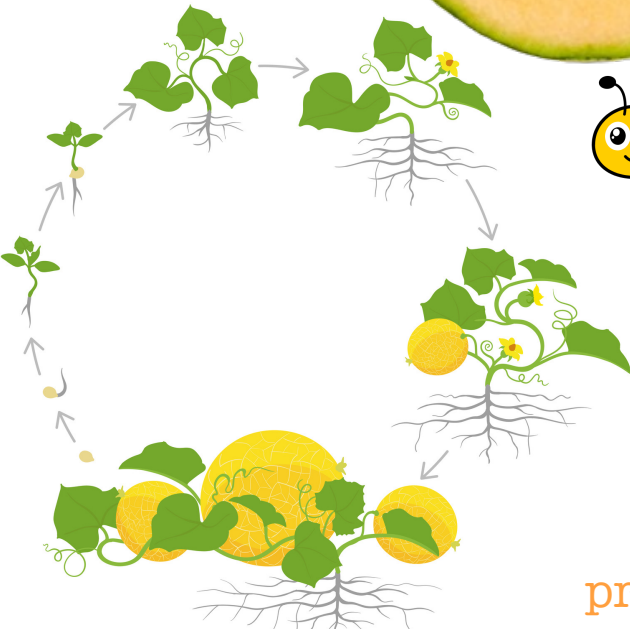


Their yellow flowers attract **honeybees** that pollinate the melon.



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.



Florida

Cucumbers

Cucumbers rank **8th most valuable** crop in Florida.

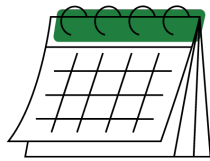
Cucumbers in Florida are grown either **outside** or in **greenhouses**.

Cucumbers can be grown without the use of soil – this is called **hydroponics**.

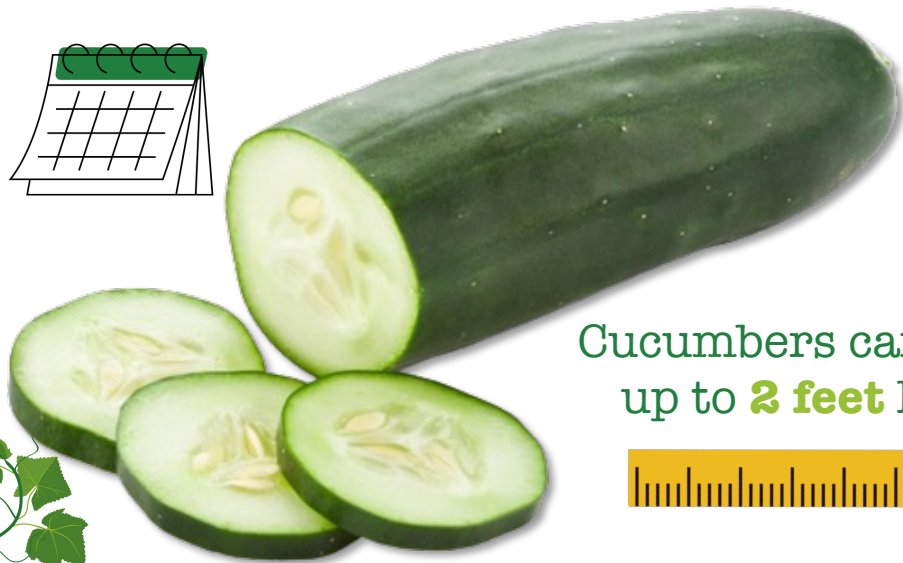
Cucumbers are **90%** water.



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.



Florida

Dragon Fruit

Dragon fruit thrives in Florida's **mild climate** and **abundant sunshine**.

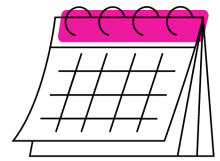
Dragon fruit is also known as "**pitaya**."

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

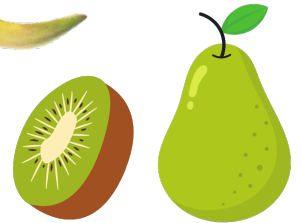
Dragon fruit is a **night-blooming** plant.

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



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.



Florida

Grapefruit

Florida grows **60%** of all grapefruits grown in the U.S.

Grapefruits are harvested by hand.



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

Types of Grapefruits Grown in Florida:

1. Ruby Red
2. Flame
3. Thompson
4. March
5. Duncan

“The Forbidden Fruit”



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



In the U.S. there are

20+

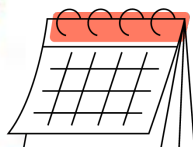
varieties of grapefruits grown.

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



Up to 25 grapefruits per cluster.

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



Florida

Milk

Lafayette and Okeechobee are Florida's leading dairy counties.

Florida is home to around **125,000** dairy cows.

6

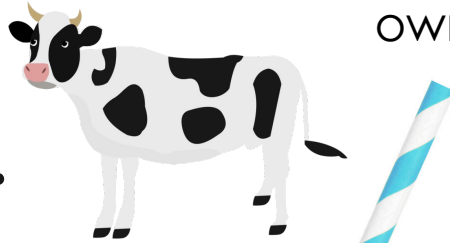
Breeds of Dairy Cows:

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.



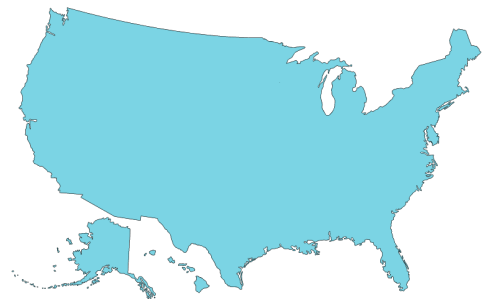
Farmers measure milk in **pounds**.

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

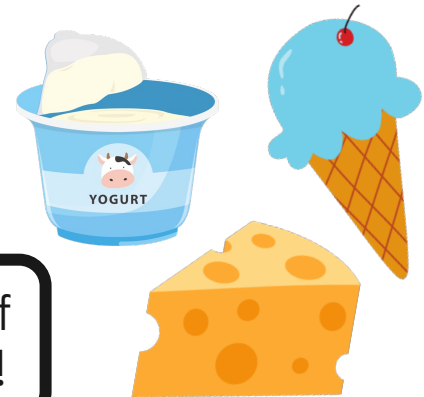
Florida produces about **300 million gallons** of milk/year.

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

ALL 50 states have dairy farms!



The U.S. produces **~227 BILLION** pounds of milk each year.



Florida

Okra

Florida is the **#1** okra producing state in the U.S.

Most of the okra grown in Florida is from **Dade City**.

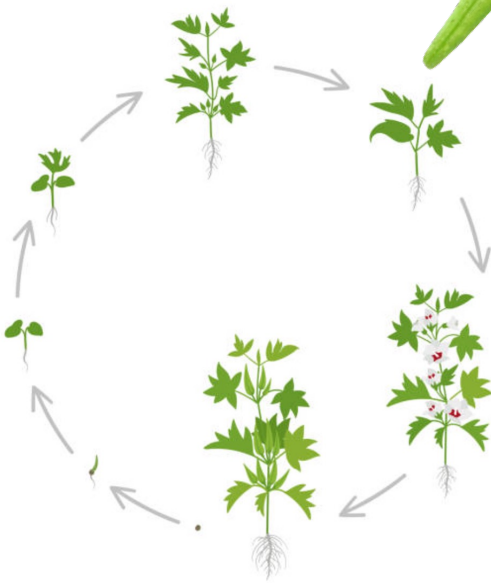


4 Common Types of Okra:

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

“Lady fingers”

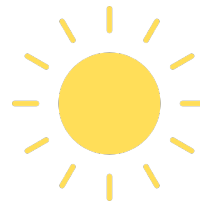
Okra is ready to harvest **60 - 70 days** after being planted.



Okra is a **warm-season** crop.

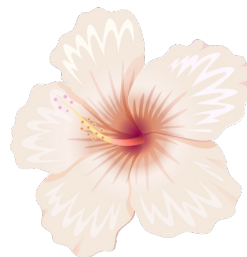


Okra **pods** are usually **2 - 3 inches** long.



Okra plants thrive in **full sun**.

Okra is **90%** water.



Okra produces **hibiscus-like** flowers.

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



Florida

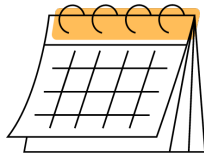
Oranges

More than **90%** of America's orange juice comes from Florida oranges.

85% of oranges are produced for making juice.

3 Popular Types of Oranges:

1. Navel
2. Hamlin
3. Valencia



Orange season is 9 months long!
October - June!



600+
varieties
of oranges.

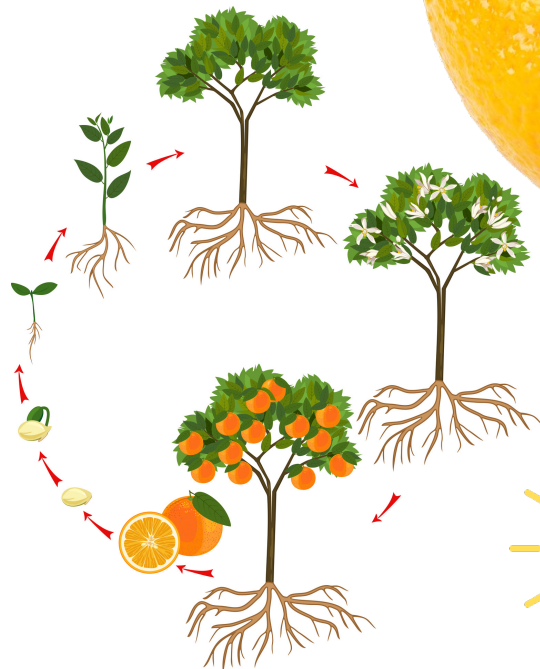
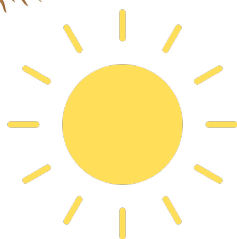
**Vitamin
C**

Most oranges are harvested by hand.



Sub-tropical areas are ideal conditions for growing oranges.

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



Florida

Potatoes

Florida harvests between **20,000 to 30,000 acres** of potatoes each year.

Florida has several **thousand** acres of potatoes.

Hastings, Florida is known as the **Potato Capital of Florida**.

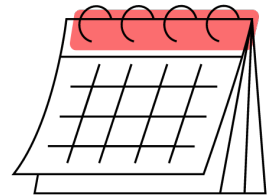
In 1995, potatoes became the first vegetable grown in **space!**



Potatoes are the **2nd** most consumed food in the U.S. after dairy products.

AUGUST 13

National Potato Day



Potatoes are often referred to as "**spuds.**"

35% of potatoes are turned into French fries.



200+ varieties of potatoes.

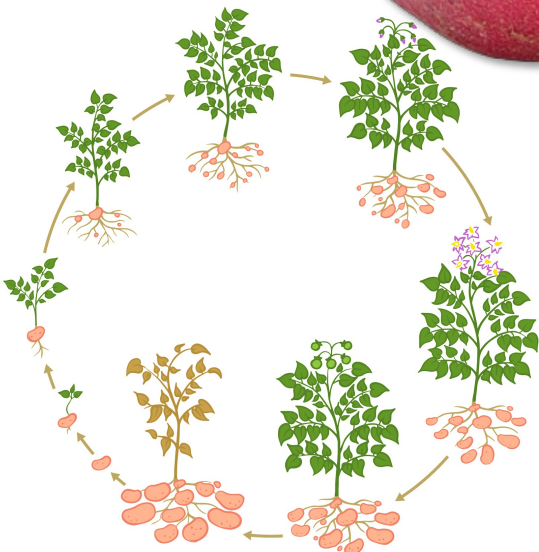


Potatoes are grown **underground.**

Potatoes are an **annual** plant.



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



Florida

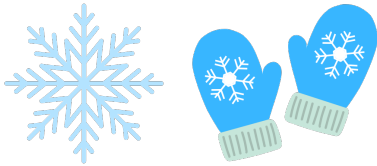
Squash

Florida harvests around **85,000 pounds** of squash each year.

Florida is the **4th largest** squash producing state.

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

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



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

Squash are a **fruit!**



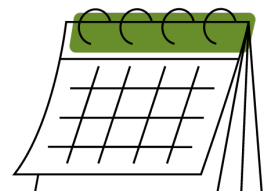
Examples of summer squash are **zucchini, yellow & scallop.**

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

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.

Florida

Strawberries

Plant City, Florida is known as the **Winter Strawberry Capital** of the World.

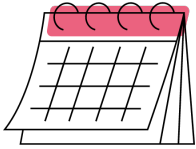


One acre of land can produce **50,000** pounds of strawberries.

3 Main Types of Strawberries:

Peak harvesting season is **April – June**.

1. June-bearing
2. Ever-bearing
3. Day-neutral



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



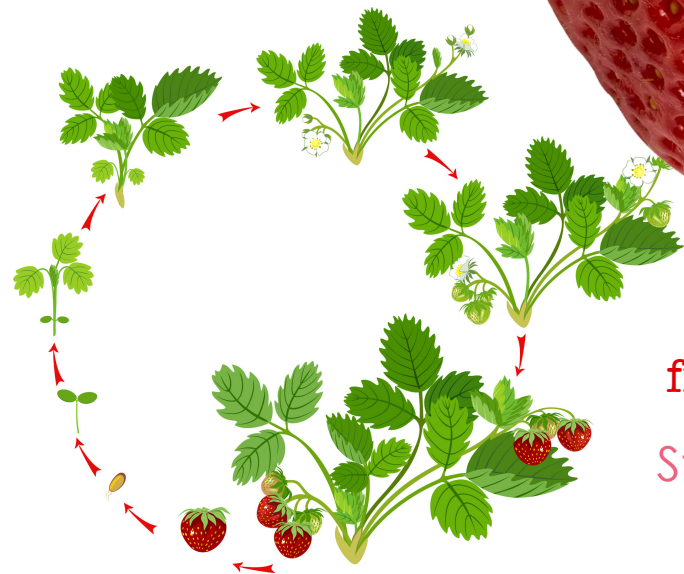
All strawberries are hand picked.



The average strawberry has **200** seeds.

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

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



Florida

Sugarcane

Florida is the **# 1** sugarcane producing state in the U.S.

Florida is home to **400+** acres of sugarcane.

Sugarcane is a **tropical** plant, similar to bamboo.



Sugarcane requires **365 days** of frost-free weather to grow.

Each stalk of sugarcane contains around **30 teaspoons** of sugar.



Sugarcane is harvested to make **sugar!**



Sugar is **stored** in the stalks of the sugarcane.

Over **50%** of sugarcane is **harvested by hand**.

A skilled harvester can harvest **1,100 pounds** of sugarcane **per hour**.

Sugarcane can be anywhere from **6 - 20 feet tall**.



Sugarcane requires **high temperatures** and **high rainfall**.



Florida

Sweet Corn

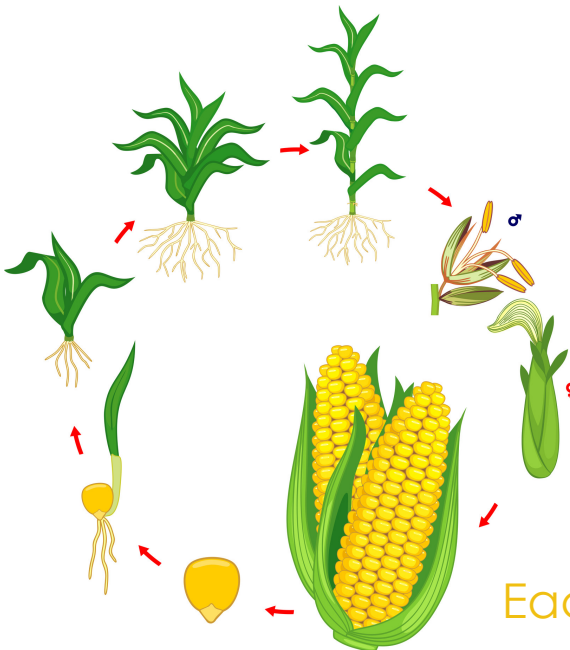
Florida is the **largest** producer of **fresh market** sweet corn in the U.S.

Palm Beach County produces over **50%** of Florida's sweet corn.

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

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

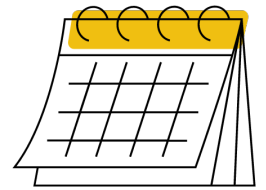
Corn is considered a **grain, fruit & vegetable.**



Florida is home to **37,000+** acres of sweet corn.

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.

Florida

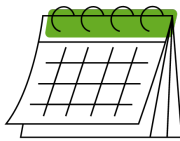
Tangerines

Florida is the **number 1 producer** of tangerines in the United States.

Florida is home to around **10,490 acres** of tangerine trees.

FOUR Main Types of Tangerines Grown in FL:

In Florida, tangerines are in **peak season** from October to mid-November.



1. Fallglo
2. Sunburst
3. Royal
4. Honey



“Easy Peelers”

Tangerines are easier to peel than most other citrus fruit.



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

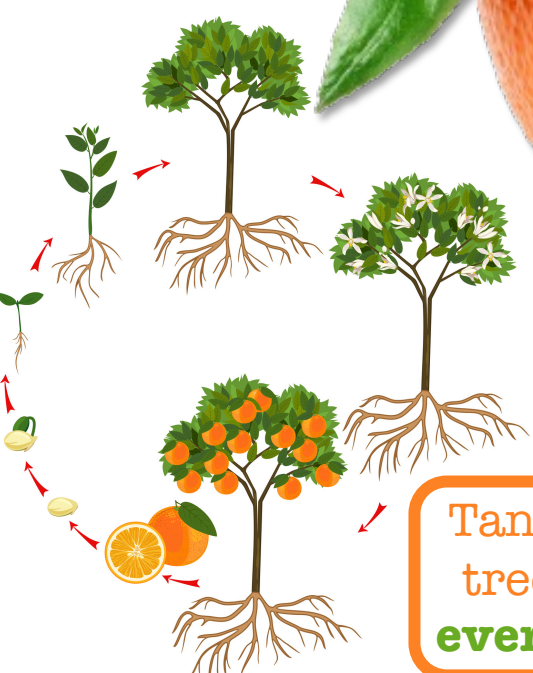


Tangerines are known for their **BIRGHT** orange peel.

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.



Florida

Tomatillos

Because of the climate, tomatillos can grow year-round in **Florida**.



Florida's **morning sun** is ideal.



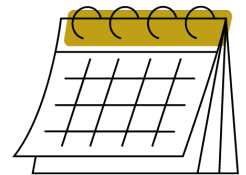
Tomatillo translates to **“little tomato”** in Spanish.

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

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



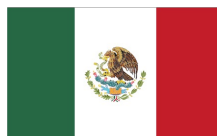
Tomatillos have a growing season of **75 - 100 days**.



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**.



Florida

Tomatoes

Florida is ranked the **#1** state for growing fresh tomatoes.

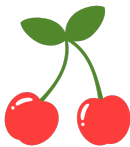
FL accounts for **50%** of all fresh tomatoes grown in the U.S.

3 Popular Types of Tomatoes:



Tomatoes come in a variety of colors including **yellow**, **pink**, **purple**, **black** & **white**.

1. Cherry
2. Grape
3. Roma



“Wolf peach”



93% of

Americans grow tomatoes in their own garden.



Botanically, tomatoes are a **fruit!**

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.



Florida

Watermelon

Florida is the **#1** watermelon producing state in the U.S.

Florida produces around **1 BILLION** pounds of watermelon each year.

Florida accounts for **30%** of all watermelon grown in the U.S.



Watermelon is grown mainly on the **west side of Florida**.

Watermelons are **92%** water.



The world's **heaviest** watermelon was **350 lbs**.

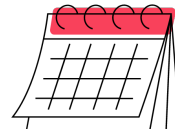
Watermelons are grown in over **96 countries** worldwide.



Harvested by hand.

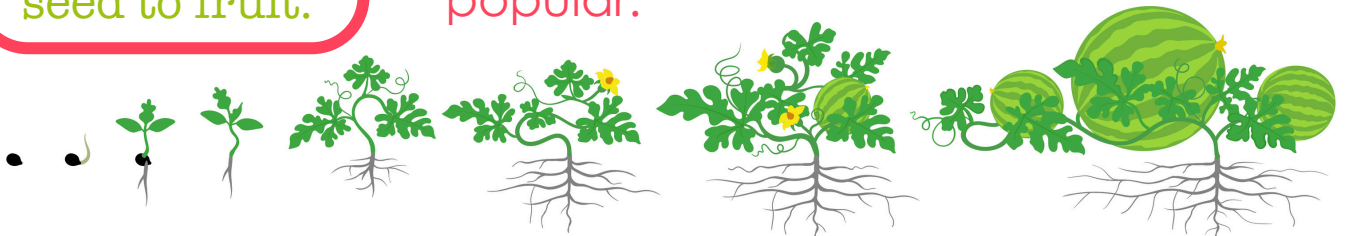
Watermelons take **90** days to grow from seed to fruit.

Seedless watermelon are most popular.



JULY

National Watermelon Month



F L O R I D A



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A G R I C U L T U R E