DIGITAL MAGAZINE

LEARN® More

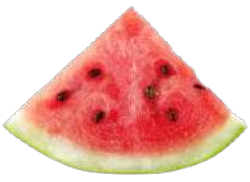
Florida Agriculture

Teaching Kids Where Food Comes From

Fresh from Florida®

ENRICHMENT

Fresh
from
Florida®



Florida

Avocados

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

Over 50 different varieties of avocados are grown in Florida.

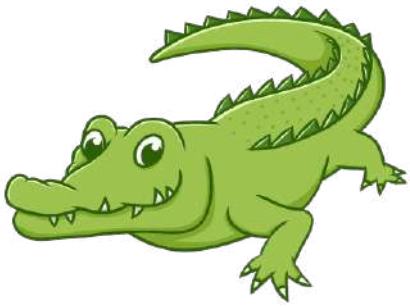
Avocado trees grow to be **30** to **60 feet tall**.

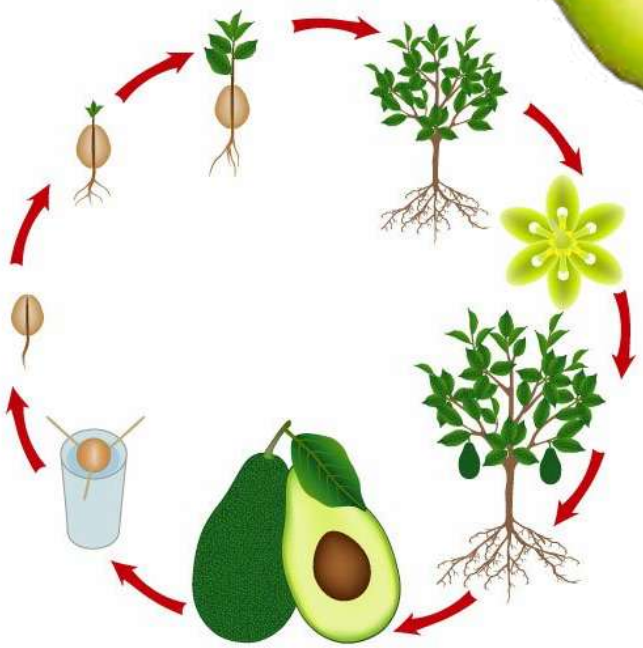
Top 3 Avocado Producing States:

1. California
2. Florida
3. Hawai'i

Avocados take a **minimum** of a **YEAR** to grow.

"Alligator Pears"





An avocado tree produces around **60 pounds** of avocados/year.

Avocados are a type of **FRUIT**!

Hass avocados are the **most popular** variety of avocado.

Florida Bell Peppers

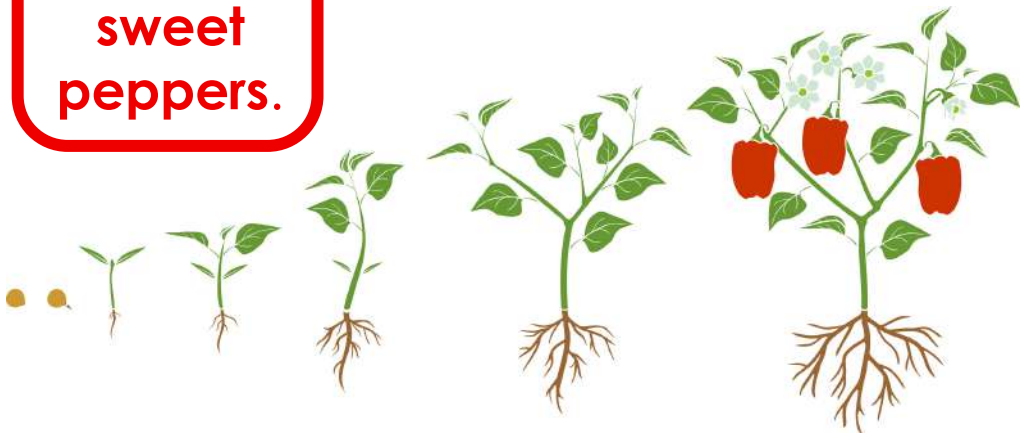
Florida produces over **300 MILLION pounds** of bell peppers each year.

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

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

Bell peppers are a **FRUIT**.

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



The bell pepper is the **ONLY** member of the pepper family that **does not produce capsaicin**.

Capsaicin is the chemical that makes other peppers **spicy**.

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.

Florida is home to over **5,200 acres** of blueberry fields.

4 Types of Blueberries:

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

Blueberries are grown commercially in **38 states**.

Florida blueberry season is from **March - early May**.

Highbush blueberries are the most common type of blueberry.

Lowbush blueberries are commonly used to make jam.

The **waxy coating** on blueberries is called **"bloom."**

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

Blueberries the **ONLY** food that are naturally blue in color.

Florida

Cabbage

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

Cabbage is a type of **cruciferous** vegetable.

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

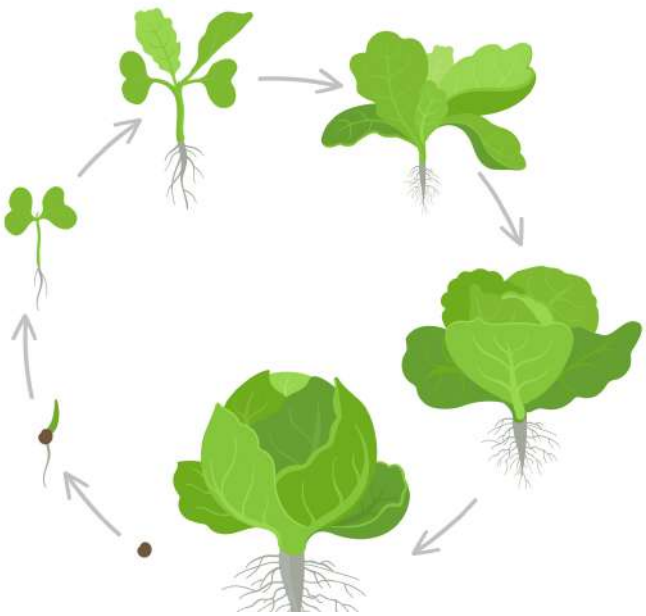
Cabbage can grow up to **6 feet tall**.

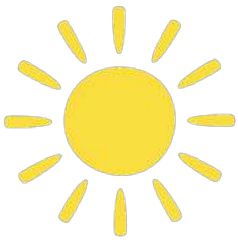
Types of Cabbage:

1. Early
2. Late

Cabbage leaves have a **waxy coating**.

400+ varieties of cabbage.





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

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

The most ***popular*** varieties of cabbage:

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

Florida

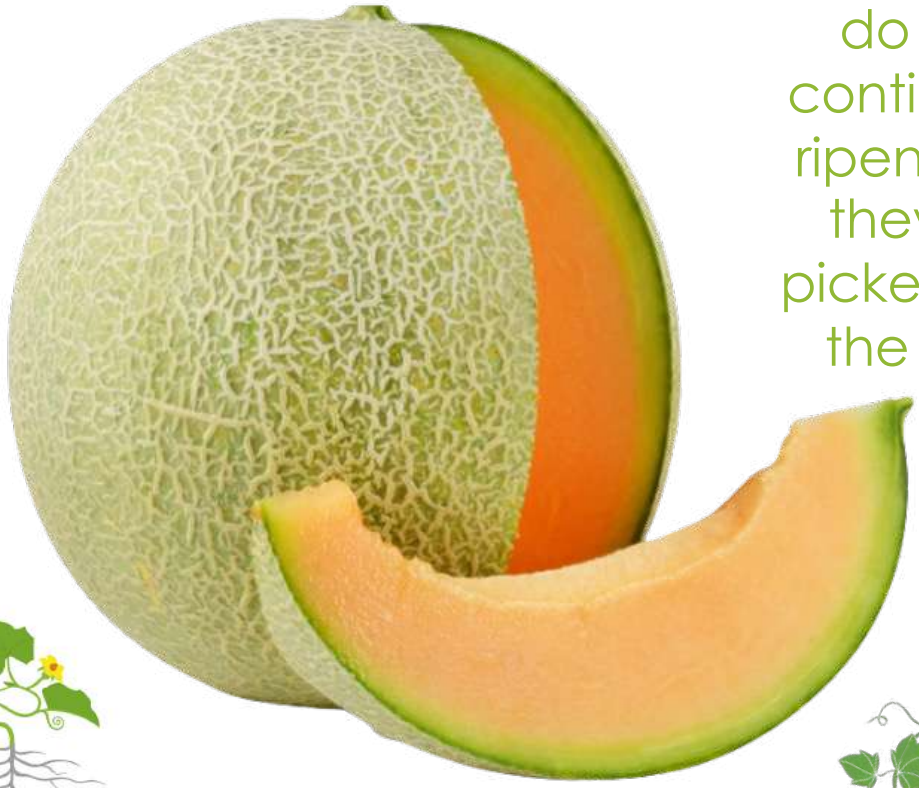
Cantaloupe

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

5 Types of Cantaloupe grown in Florida:

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

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



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

"Reticulated Muskmelon"

Cantaloupe grow on **vines** that can reach up to **5 feet long**.

Cantaloupe are pollinated by **honeybees**.

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

Florida

Cucumbers

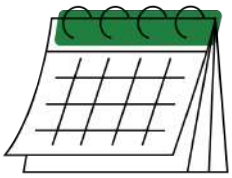
Cucumbers rank **8th most valuable** crop in Florida.

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

The U.S. is the **4th largest** cucumber producing country in the world.

Cucumbers are **90%** water.

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



60 million tons of cucumbers are grown worldwide each year.

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

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

Cucumbers are a **fruit!**

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

Florida

Dragon Fruit

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

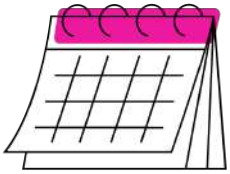
Dragon fruit is also known as "**pitaya**."

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

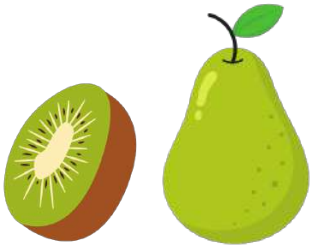
Dragon fruit is a **night-blooming** plant.

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.

Dragon fruit grows on a "**climbing cactus plant**."

Florida Grapefruit

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

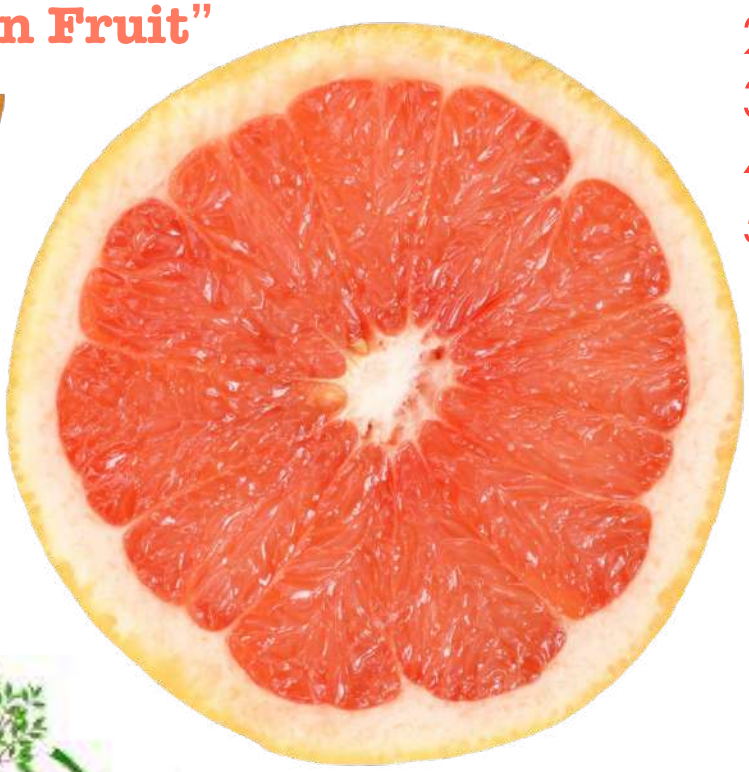
Grapefruits are harvested by hand.

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"

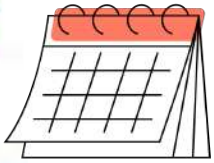


Grapefruit trees can reach up to **45 feet** high.

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** to **13 months** to produce fruit.

Florida Green Beans

Florida ranks **2nd** in the U.S. for production of green beans.

In the winter, **Florida produces 100%** of the green beans grown in the U.S.

Green beans taste best when they are thinner than a **pencil**.

130+ varieties of green beans.

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

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

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

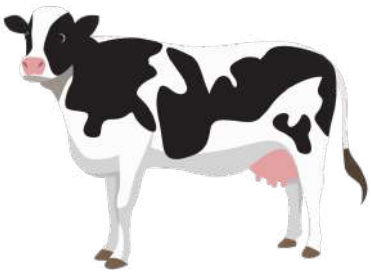
The World's Tallest Bean Plant was over **45 feet tall**.

=

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

Lafayette and **Okeechobee** are Florida's leading dairy counties.

FUN FACTS



Most of the dairy cows in Florida are **Holsteins** (the black and white cows), and their spots are unique like a **fingerprint**!

Cows chew their cud **50 times per minute**.

How many times can **you** chew in a minute?!

Cows can SEE almost **360 degrees** and SMELL up to **6 miles** away!

DAIRY FACTS

Most Florida dairy herds range in size from **150** - **5,000 cows**.

Florida dairy farmers **recycle** byproducts such as citrus pulp, brewers' grain and whole cottonseed that are consumed by the cows instead of ending up in landfills.

A Florida dairy cow produces about **6** - **8 gallons** of milk each day.

DAIRY COUNCIL OF FLORIDA

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"

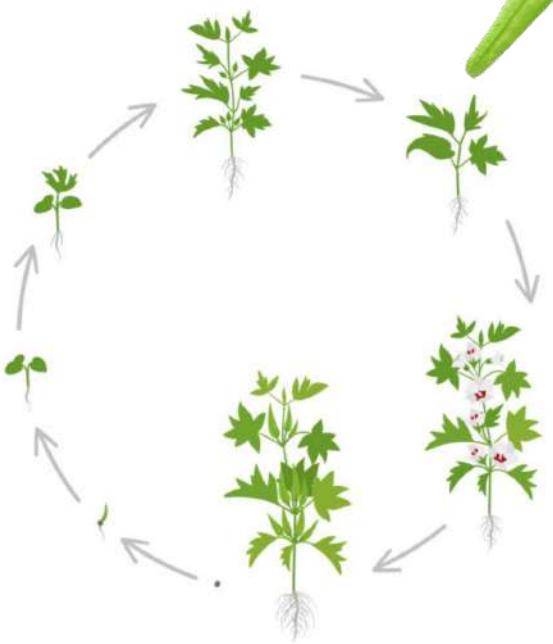
Okra is a **warm-season** crop.

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

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

Okra is **90%** water.

Okra plants thrive in **full sun**.



Okra produces **hibiscus-like** flowers.

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

Florida

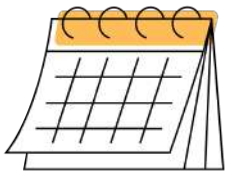
Oranges

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

85% of oranges are produced for making **juice**.

3 Popular Types of Oranges:

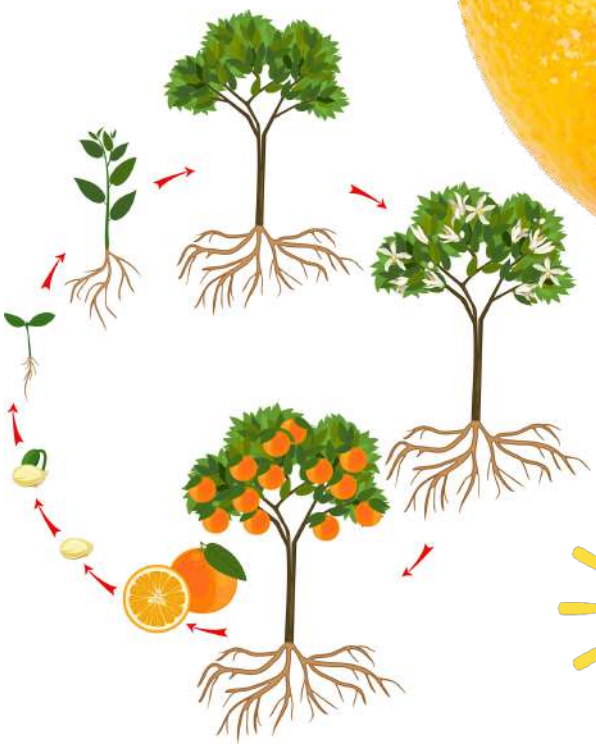
1. Navel
2. Hamlin
3. Valencia



Orange season is 9 months long!
October - June!

600+ varieties of oranges.

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 is home to 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**!

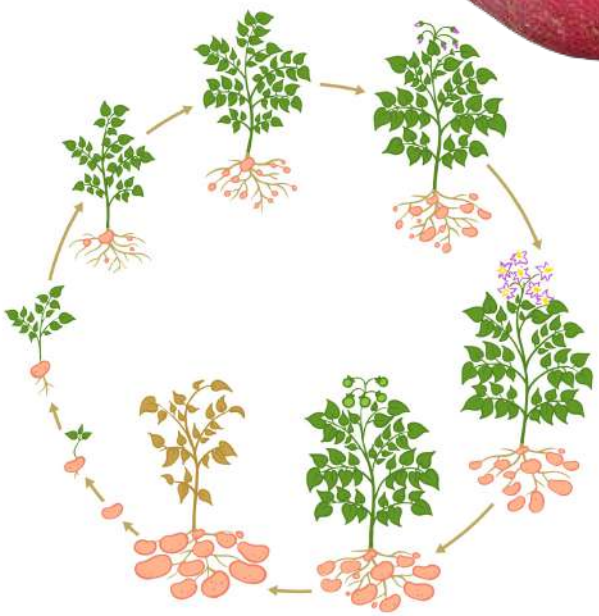
There are **200+ different** varieties of potatoes.

AUGUST 13

National Potato Day

35% of potatoes are turned into French fries.

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



Potatoes grow **underground**.

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

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.

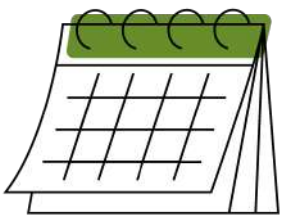
Squash are a type of **FRUIT**!

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.



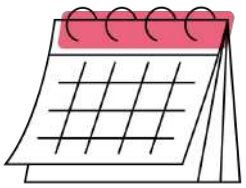
Winter squash takes **80 - 120 days** to mature after being planted.

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.

Peak strawberry harvesting season is **April - June**.



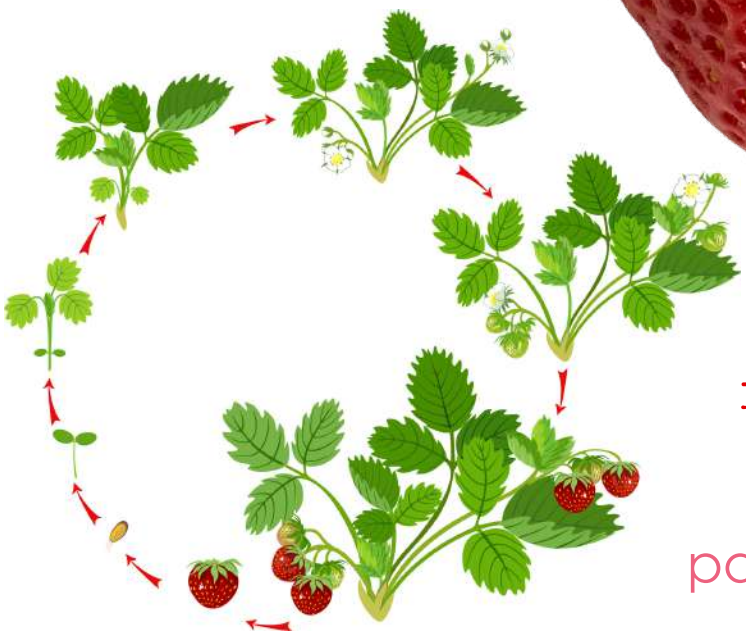
Strawberries are the **FIRST** fruit to ripen in the spring.

3 **Main Types of Strawberries:**

1. June-bearing
2. Ever-bearing
3. 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**.

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.

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

The U.S. is the **LARGEST** producer, consumer & exporter of corn in the world.

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

Humans only eat **sweet corn**.

There are around **800** kernels on each ear of corn.

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

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

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

Corn stalks can grow between **7 – 10 feet tall**.

Corn is America's **number 1** field crop.

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:

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

Tangerines are in **peak season** from October to November.

"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 **BRIGHT** 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**.

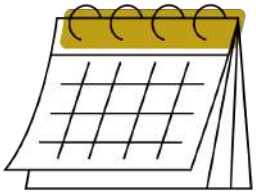
Florida's **morning sun** is ideal.

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

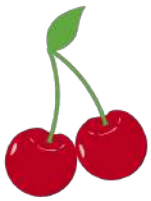
Tomatoes

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

Florida grows **50%** of all **fresh** tomatoes grown in the U.S.

3 Popular Types of Tomatoes:

1. Cherry
2. Grape
3. Roma



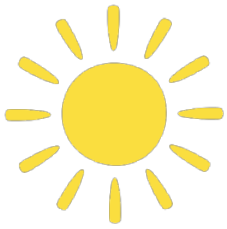
Tomatoes come in a variety of colors including **yellow**, **pink**, **purple** & more!

"Wolf peach"

MANY Americans grow tomatoes in their own garden.

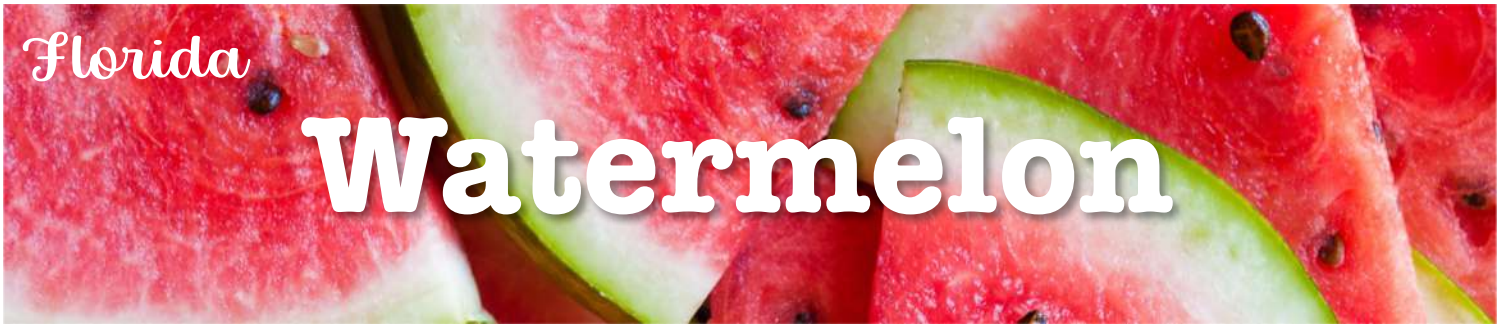
There are **10,000+ different varieties** of tomatoes.

Botanically, tomatoes are a **fruit**!



Tomatoes take **60 - 100 days** to grow from seed to fruit.

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.

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

Watermelons are a **NON-GMO** crop.

JULY

National Watermelon Month!

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

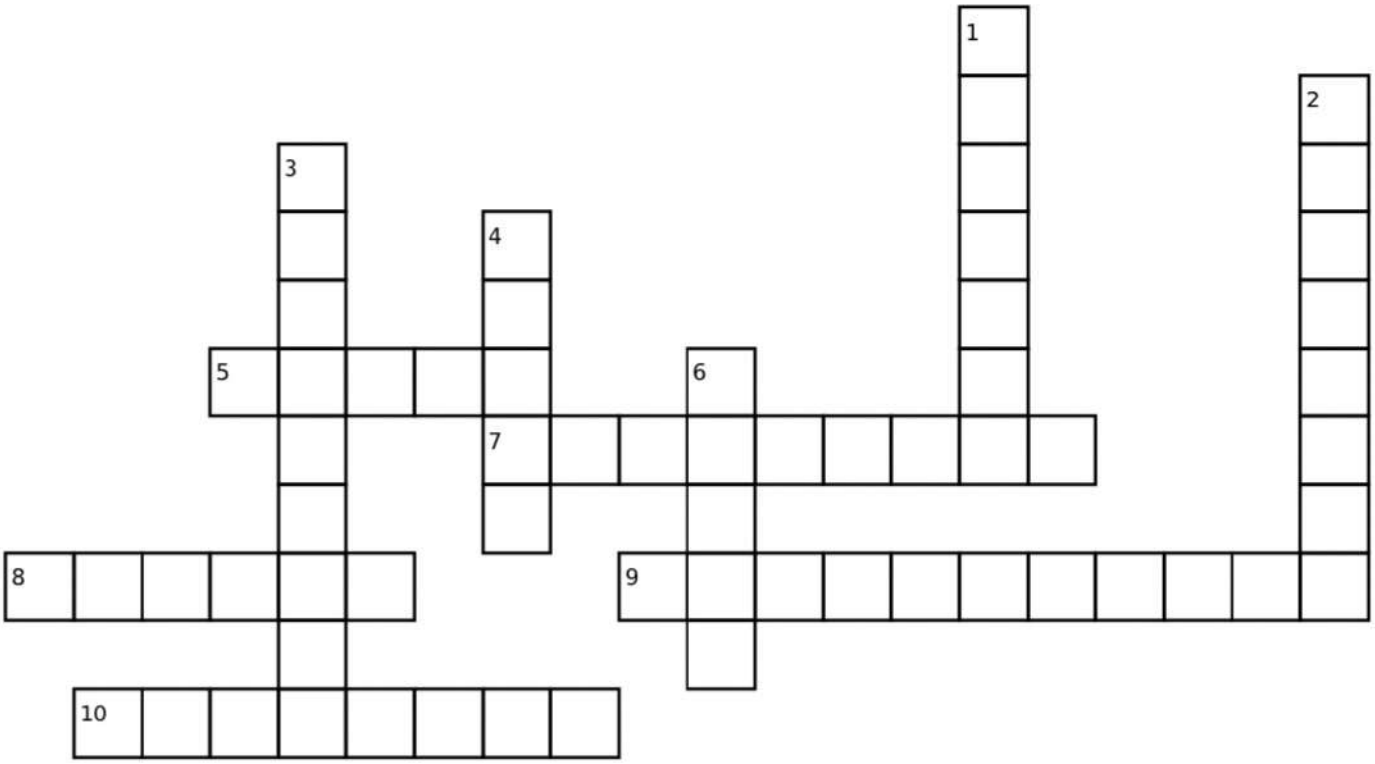
Seedless watermelon are most popular.

Florida Watermelon Association

Fresh from Florida®

A H X O T X J Z Z G Q Z M V H
V Z B R G R E E N B E A N S F
O E L A M D S T O M A T O E S
C T U N I W A T E R M E L O N
A O E G L U S Q U A S H O I V
D M B E K C U C U M B E R S O
O A E S H P O T A T O E S O S
S T R A W B E R R I E S Y K W
C I R C A N T A L O U P E R E
A L I T A N G E R I N E S A E
B L E U D R A G O N F R U I T
B O S V H N Y V R O V D K Q C
A S D B E L L P E P P E R S O
G R O G R A P E F R U I T T R
E S U G A R C A N E Q B C X N

Avocados
Bell Peppers
Blueberries
Cabbage
Cantaloupe
Cucumbers
Dragon Fruit
Grapefruit
Green Beans
Milk
Okra
Oranges
Potatoes
Squash
Strawberries
Sugarcane
Sweet Corn
Tangerines
Tomatillos
Tomatoes
Watermelon



Down:

1. Florida produces around one _____ pounds of watermelon each year.

2. Miami-Dade & Collier county produce the most _____ in the state of Florida.

3. _____ are the 8th most valuable crop in Florida.

4. Florida is the largest producer of _____ market sweet corn.

6. Lafayette & Okeechobee are Florida's leading _____ counties.

Across:

5. 90% of America's orange _____ comes from Florida oranges.

7. Florida is the #1 _____ producing state in the U.S.

8. Plant City, Florida is known as the _____ strawberry capital of the world.

9. Florida grows 60% of all _____ grown in the U.S.

10. Dragon fruit thrives in Florida's mild climate & abundant _____.

F L O R I D A

FLORIDA Agriculture IN THE CLASSROOM

Teaching Resources | **Training & Events** | **Award & Grants**

A G R I C U L T U R E