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more

Maine Agriculture

Full of Food, Farmers & Fun!



Maine Agriculture

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Barley



Blueberries



Corn



Lobster



Maple Syrup



Oats



Potatoes

Maine

Barley

The U.S. harvests around **170 MILLION bushels** of barley per year on **2.2 MILLION acres** of land.



The U.S. produces mostly **spring** barley.

Ways to Classify Barley:

1. Spring Barley
2. Winter Barley
3. 6-Row Barley
4. 2-Row Barley

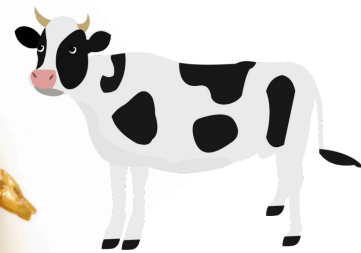
Barley is one of the **oldest** domesticated grain crops.

A **small** percentage of barley is milled into flour.



Barley is a cool-season, annual crop.

Barley is used as a feed grain for livestock.



The head of the plant is called the "**barley spike**" which is made up of 20 - 60 grains.

Barley is a **tall grass** with a stem that reaches between 30 - 35 inches high.



Blueberries

Over **774 MILLION** pounds of blueberries are harvested each year across the U.S.

The U.S. is home to around **102,000 acres** of blueberries.

4 Types of Blueberries:

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

Blueberries are native to **North America**.

JULY

is National Blueberry Month!

Highbush blueberries are the most common.



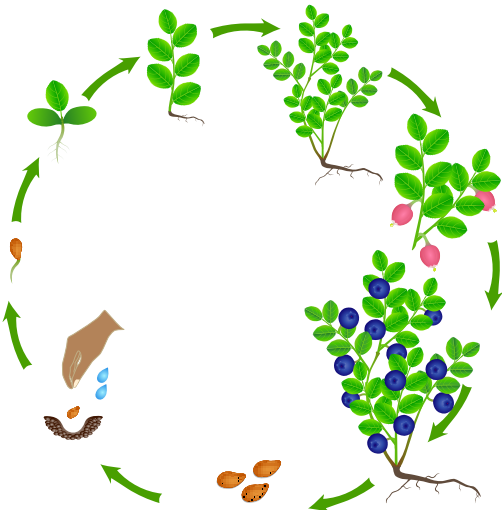
Blueberries are a **superfood!**



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

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

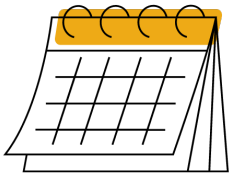
Lowbush blueberries are smaller & sweeter – perfect for making **jam!**



Maine

Corn

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



90 MILLION acres of corn is harvested each year in the U.S.

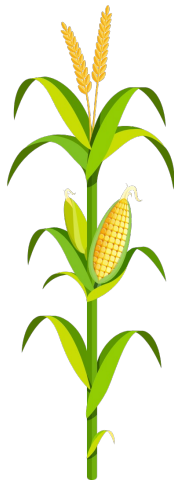
Corn is America's **number 1** field crop.

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

Corn is considered a **vegetable, fruit** AND a **grain!**

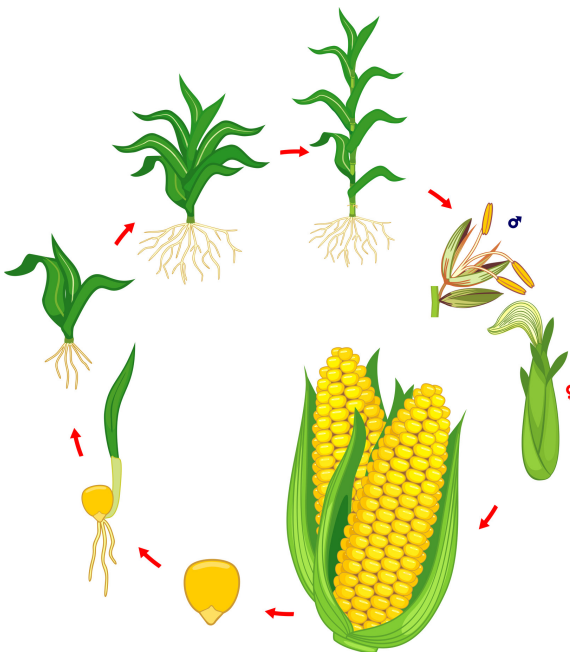


There are around **800** kernels on each ear of corn.



Most countries outside of the United States call corn "**maize**".

Most of the corn grown in the U.S. is grown in what is called the "**corn belt**" located in the Midwest.



Maine

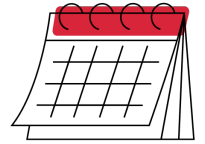
Lobster

Maine is the **largest** lobster producing state in the U.S.

Maine harvests **over 100 MILLION** pounds of lobster each year.

Maine lobsters are all harvested by hand.

Most Maine lobsters are caught between **June & December**.



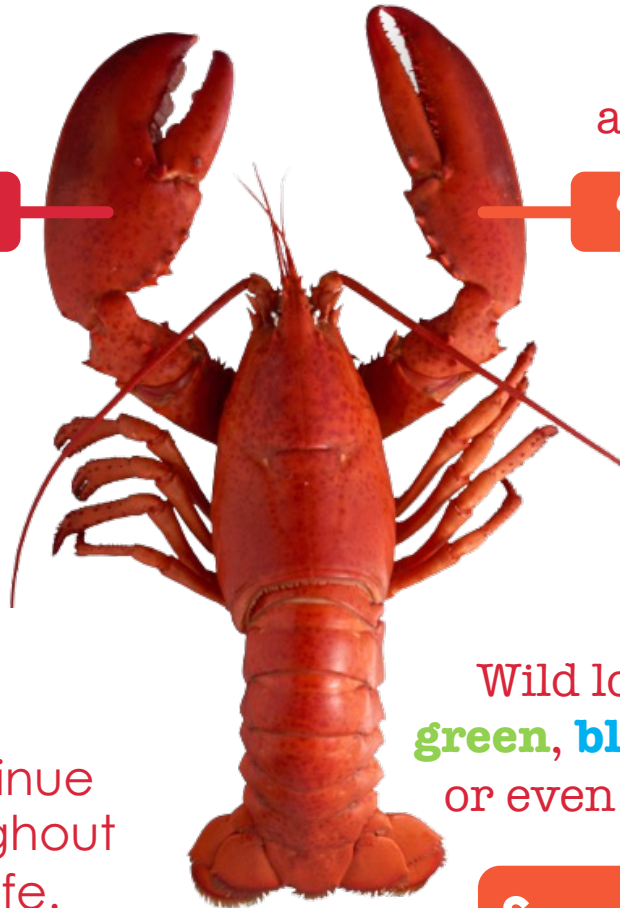
Lobster eggs are called “roe.”

“Crusher claw”

“Pincer claw”



The **minimum** legal size of a lobster that can be harvested is **3 inches**.



Lobsters are only **red** once they are cooked.

Lobsters continue to **grow** throughout their entire life.

Wild lobsters can be **green, blue, yellow, grey** or even **multi-colored**.

Lobsters can swim **backwards** just as well as they can swim forwards.

September 25

National Lobster Day



A lobsterman's workday usually starts at **4:30 am** and can go until **sundown**.



Maine

Maple Syrup

Maine produces around **64 MILLION gallons** of maple syrup each year.



Maple Sap Producing Trees:

1. Sugar Maple
2. Red Maple
3. Black Maple



A **sugarhouse** is where maple sap is taken to boil down into maple syrup.

A well cared for maple tree can live for up to **300 years!**

“Liquid Gold”



A single tree can produce up to **15 gallons** of sap per year.

40 gallons of maple sap = **1 gallon** of maple syrup.

3 types of maple syrup: **Golden, Amber & Dark.**



Amber maple syrup is the most common at the breakfast table.



Maple sap is collected during **late winter & early spring.**



Maine

Oats

The U.S. produces around **57 MILLION bushels** of oats each year.

Oats have been cultivated for **thousands** of years.

2 Kinds of Oats:

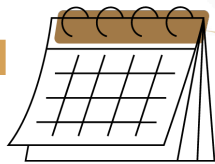
1. Husked
2. Naked

More than half of the world's oats are grown in the U.S. & Canada.

Oats are a **cool season** crop.

Oats are **planted** during the summer and early fall.

January is National Oatmeal Month!



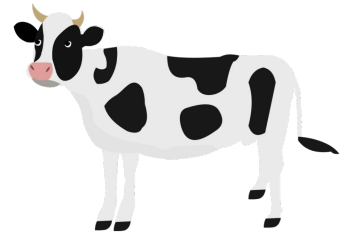
Oats are commonly rolled and made into **oatmeal**.

Farmers use a "**combine harvester**" to harvest the oats.



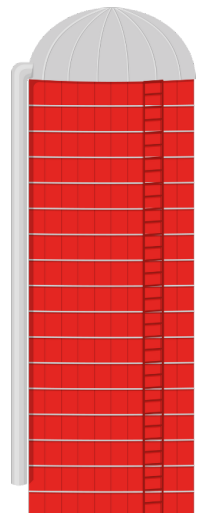
Oats are also used to make flour and alternative milk.

Farmers use oat straw as **bedding** for cattle & horses.



95% of oats grown in the U.S. are used for livestock feed.

Oats are stored in **silos**.



Maine

Potatoes

Approximately **1 MILLION acres** of potatoes are harvested each year in the U.S.



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



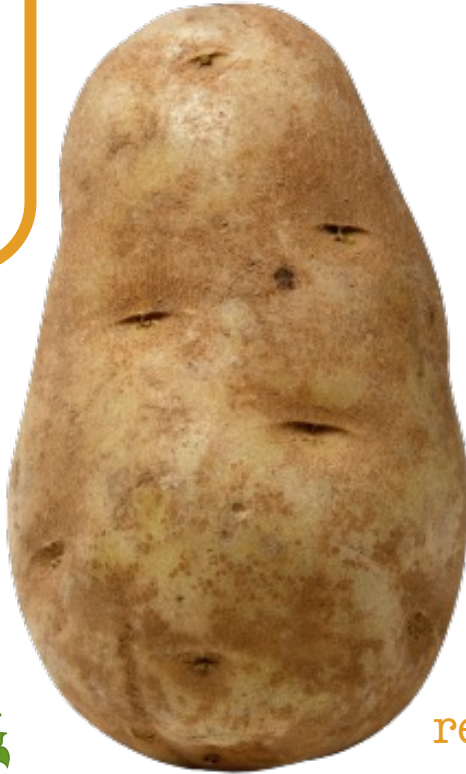
In 1995, potatoes became the first vegetable grown in **space!**



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

35%

of potatoes are turned into French fries.



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.



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