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more

Michigan Agriculture

Full of Food, Farmers & Fun!



21

Crops



MICHIGAN
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 MICHIGAN
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By local farm families. MichiganGrown.org

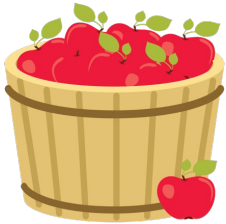


Michigan

Apples

Michigan is home to over **14 MILLION** apple trees.

Apples are the **largest & most valuable** crop grown in MI.



Michigan harvests **24 MILLION** bushels of apples each year.

Michigan apples are in season from **August - June.**

2,500 varieties of apples are grown in the United States.



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



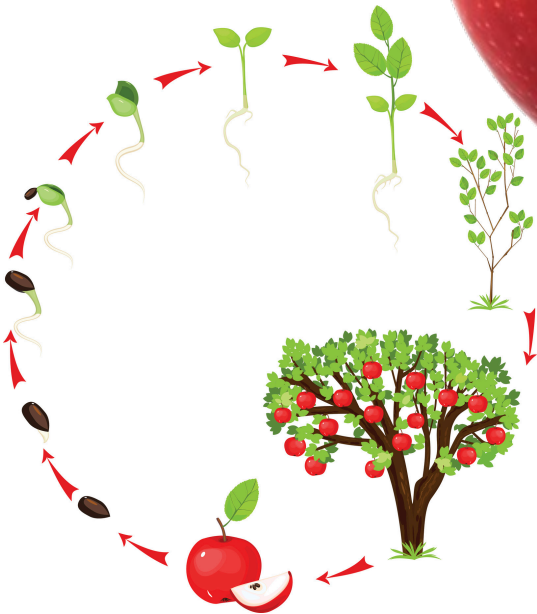
36 apples make **1** gallon of cider.



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 still all **HAND-PICKED.**



Michigan

Asparagus

In total, the U.S. produces around **60-70 MILLION** pounds of asparagus each year.

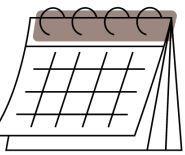
Asparagus is grown on **4,900 farms** across the U.S.

Michigan, California & Washington are the largest asparagus producing states.

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



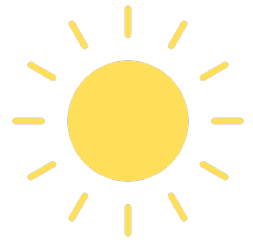
Asparagus can be **green, purple or white!**



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



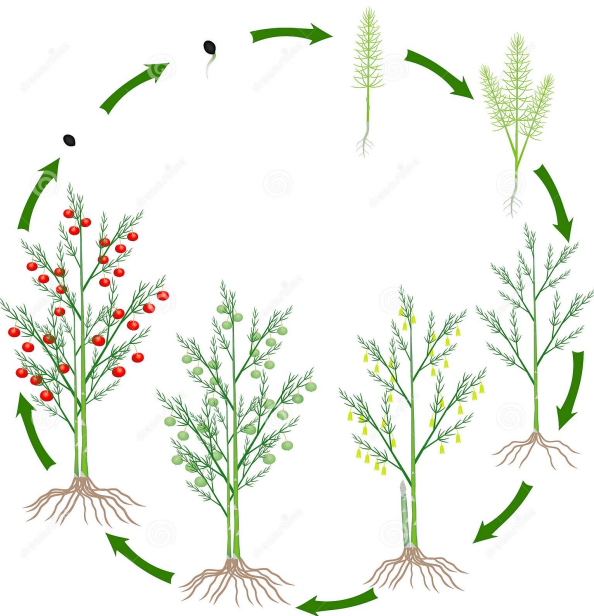
White asparagus is grown **without** sunlight.



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.

Michigan

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

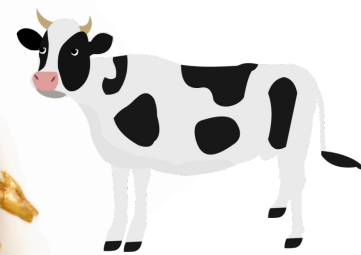
Barley is one of the **oldest** domesticated grain crops.

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.

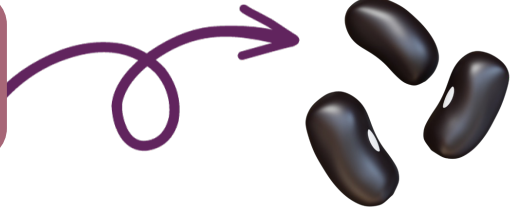
Barley is a **tall grass** with a stem that reaches between 30 - 35 inches high.



Michigan

Beans

Michigan is the # 1 producer of black beans in the U.S.



Dry beans The U.S. is home to **around 1.3** are grown in **MILLION acres** of dry beans. **30+ states.**

Popular Types of Beans:

1. Green Beans
2. Kidney Beans
3. Pinto Beans
4. Lima Beans



Dry beans include pinto, navy, kidney & **black beans.**

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

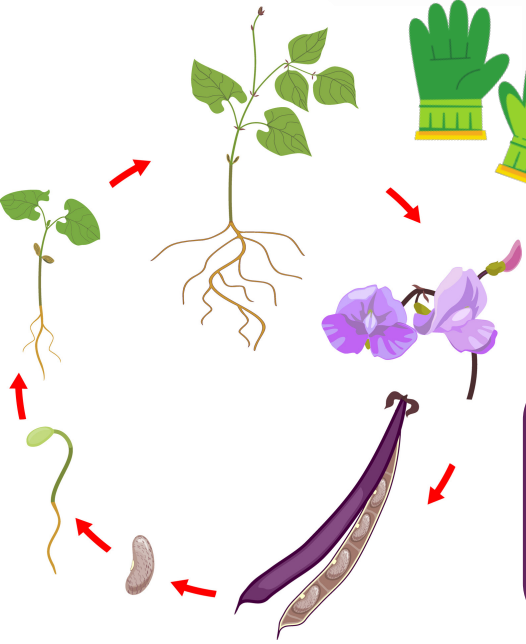


Equivalent to **3 fully-grown giraffes** stacked on top of one another.



Try growing some beans in your garden!

There are over **40,000** types of beans.



Michigan

Bell Peppers

The U.S. produces around **1 BILLION pounds** of bell peppers each year.

The U.S. is home to **31,000 acres** of bell peppers.



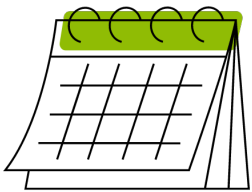
Bell peppers can be **2 to 6** inches long.



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.



Michigan

Blueberries

In total, the U.S. produces around **660 MILLION pounds** of blueberries each year.

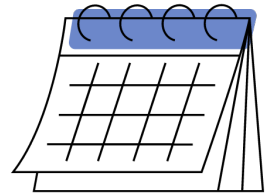
Only half of blueberries produced in the U.S. are sold **fresh**.

4 Types of Blueberries:

14 states across the U.S. produce blueberries.

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

Highbush blueberries are the most common.



JULY is National Blueberry Month!

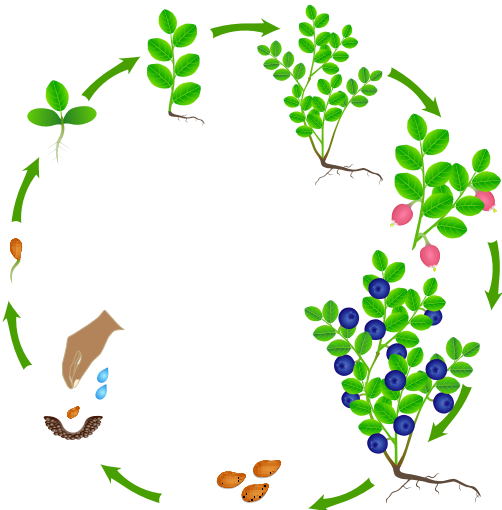
Lowbush blueberries are smaller & sweeter – perfect for making jam!

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



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

Blueberries are native to **North America**.



Michigan

Cabbage

The U.S. produces **over 2 BILLION pounds** of cabbage each year.

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



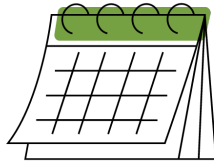
Average plant is **4 - 6 feet** tall.



Types of Cabbage:

1. Early
2. Late

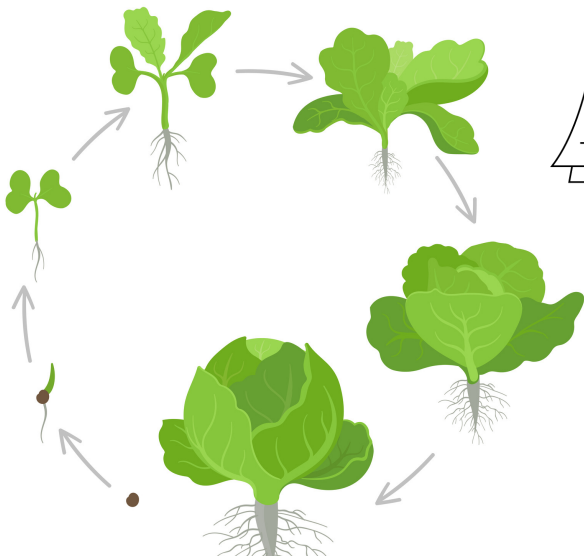
Early cabbage takes **45 days** to mature, and late cabbage takes **87 days**.



400+ varieties of cabbage.

The most **popular** varieties of cabbage:

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



Michigan

Carrots

Michigan is the **4th largest** carrot producing state in the U.S.

Most Michigan carrots grown in **Newaygo** & **Oceana** counties.

Carrots are **88%** water.



Carrots can be **orange**, **purple**, **red**, **yellow** or **white**.

Carrots are the **second most popular** vegetable in the world.



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

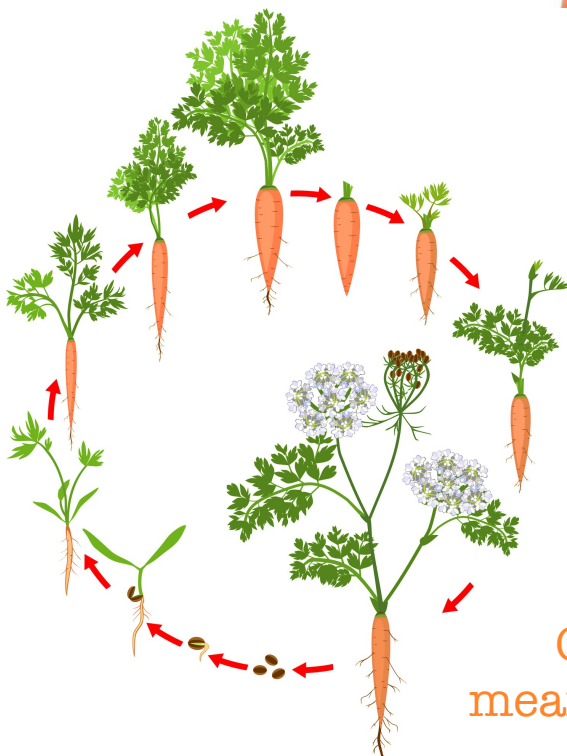
Carrots thrive in **cooler** temperatures.



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**.



Michigan

Celery

Michigan is the **second largest** celery producing state in the U.S.

Michigan harvests around **110 MILLION pounds** of celery/year.

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

1 bunch of celery consists of **10 - 12 individual stalks**.

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



Celery is a **biennial** plant.

Celery is **95%** water.



Celery and **carrots** are related.



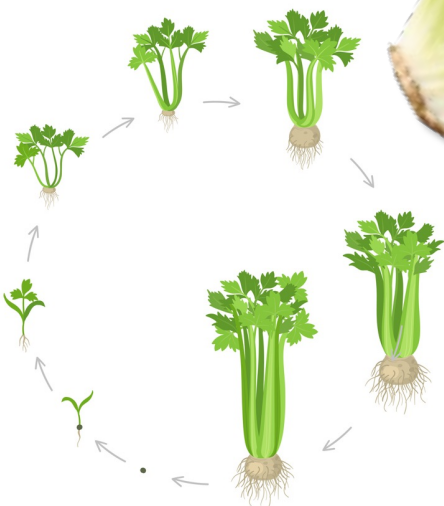
1 ounce of celery seeds can produce **1 acre** of celery.



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



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



Michigan

Cherries

Traverse City, Michigan is known as the **Cherry Capital of the World**.



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

Michigan grows **70%** of all **tart cherries** grown in the U.S.



Cherry blossoms bloom on the trees in the **spring**.



Michigan is home to around **4 MILLION** tart cherry trees.

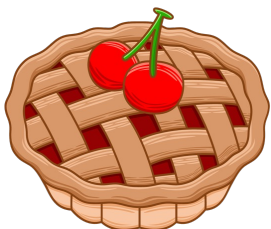
Cherry trees start to produce fruit **3 - 4 years** after planting.

Over **1,000** varieties.



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

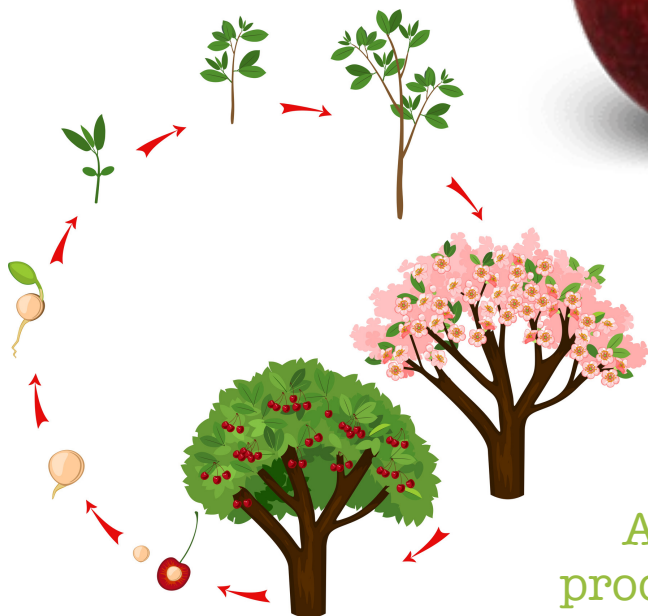
Tart cherries are most often used for **baking**.



Cherry trees can grow up to **33 feet** in height!

A typical cherry tree produces ~ **7,000** cherries/year.

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



Michigan

Cucumbers

Michigan is the **#1** cucumber producing state in the U.S.

Michigan harvests over **450 MILLION pounds** of cucumbers each year.

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

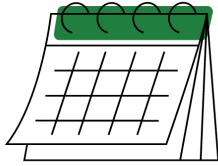
Cucumbers are

90%

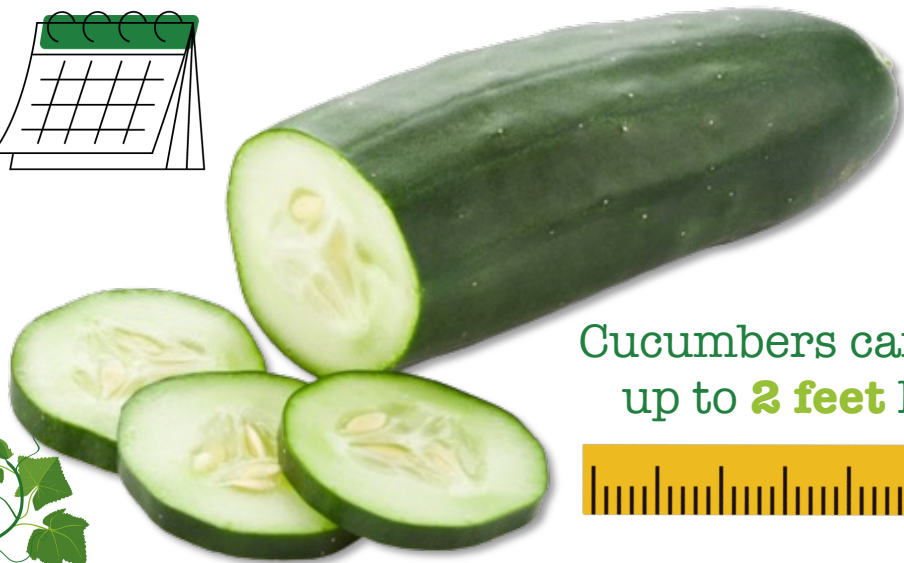
water.



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.



Michigan

Milk

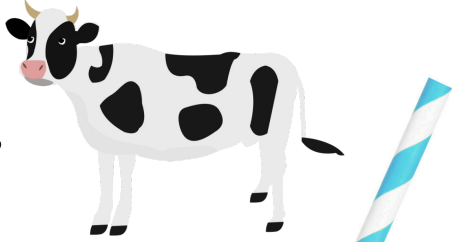


Michigan is home to **900+** dairy farms & **445,000** dairy cows.

11.6 BILLION pounds of milk is produced in Michigan each year.

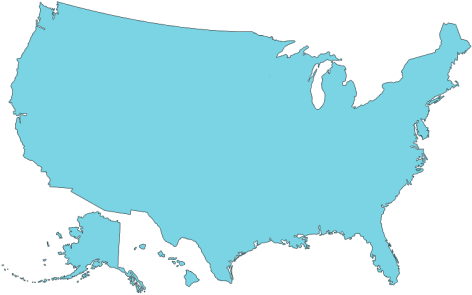
Nearly **98%** of U.S. dairy farms are family owned & operated.

6 Breeds of Dairy Cows:



ALL 50 states have dairy farms!

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



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

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

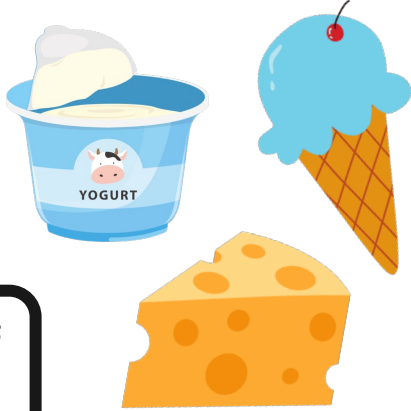
1 cow produces around **6 gallons** of milk per day.



Farmers measure milk in **pounds**.

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

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



Michigan

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:

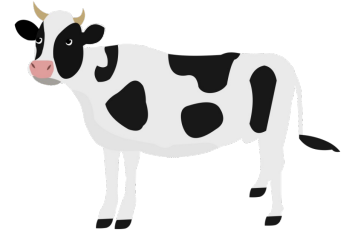
1. Husked
2. Naked

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

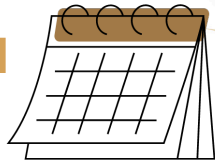
Oats are a **cool season** crop.

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

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



January is National Oatmeal Month!



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



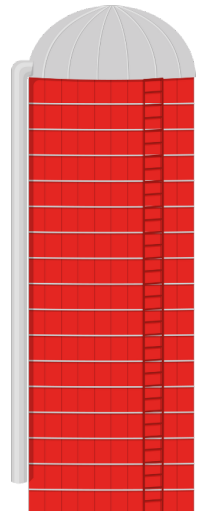
Farmers use a "**combine harvester**" to harvest the oats.

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



Oats are also used to make flour and alternative milk.

Oats are stored in **silos**.



Michigan

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.



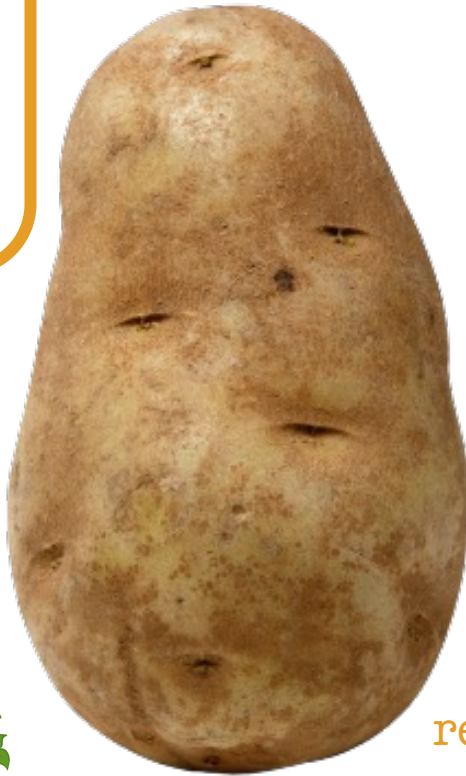
In 1995, potatoes became the first vegetable grown in **space!**



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

35%

of potatoes are turned into French fries.



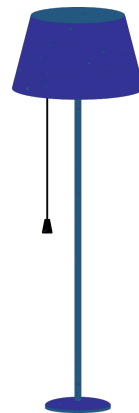
AUGUST 13

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.



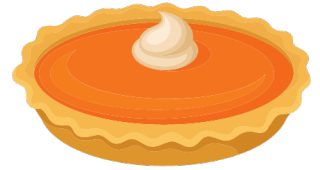
Michigan

Pumpkins

The U.S. is home to **66,200 acres** of pumpkins.

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

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



45+ varieties of pumpkins.

9 states make up **75%** of the total U.S. pumpkin production.

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



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

500

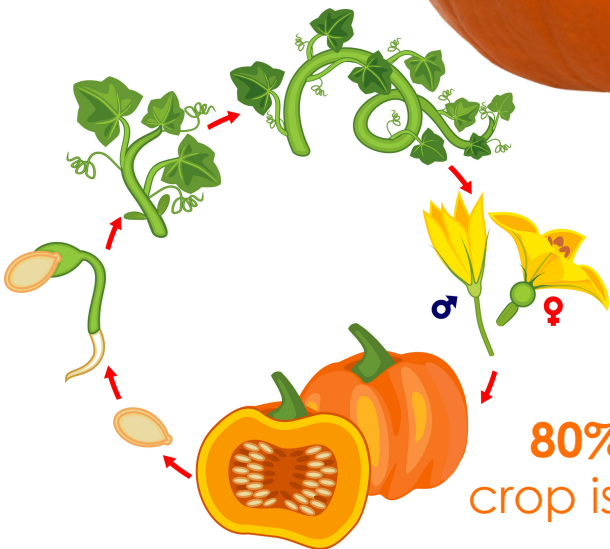
seeds/pumpkin.



Pumpkins are **90%** water.



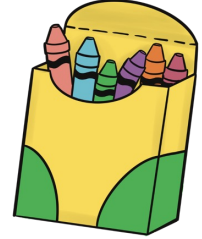
80% of the U.S. pumpkin crop is available in **OCTOBER.**



Michigan

Soybeans

The U.S. produces around **4 BILLION bushels** of soybeans each year.

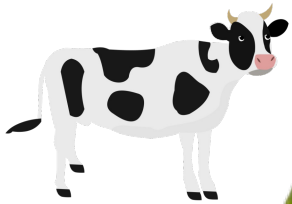


75 MILLION acres of farmland are used for growing soybeans in the U.S.

One acre of soybeans can produce **82,368** crayons!

Soybeans are a part of the **legume** family.

Soybeans were first grown in the U.S. for cattle feed.



The U.S. is the **leading** country in soybean production.



“Miracle Bean”

Soybean pods usually contains **3 seeds** each.

Each soybean plant produces around **100** pods.

Soybean plants average **3 - 5 feet** tall.



Michigan

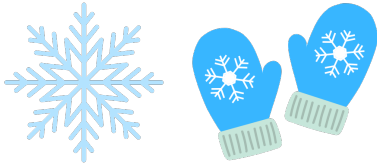
Squash

New Jersey produces around **30 MILLION pounds** of squash each year.

New Jersey is the **5th 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.



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



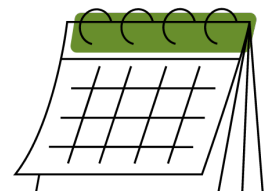
Summer squash grows **faster** than winter squash.

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.



Michigan

Strawberries

Strawberries in Michigan are grown for both **fresh** and **processed** uses.

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



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

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

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

3 Main Types of Strawberries:

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

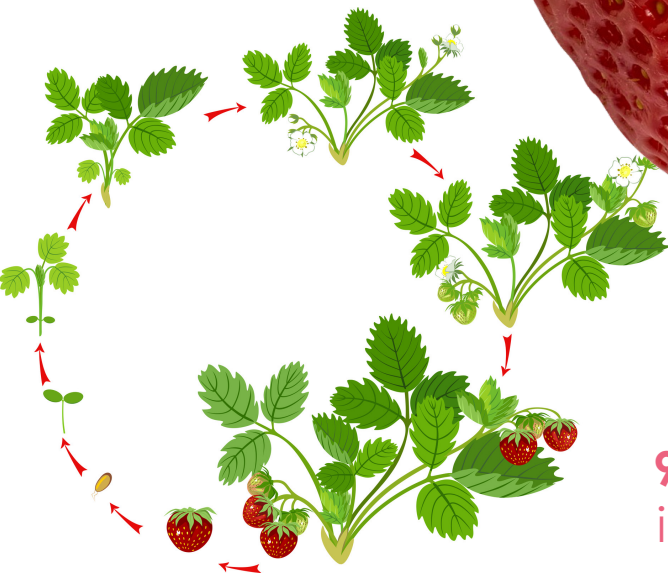
All strawberries are hand picked.



The average strawberry has **200** seeds.

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

90% of the strawberries grown in the U.S. are from **California**.



Michigan

Sugar Beets

Coming Soon!



Michigan

Sweet Corn

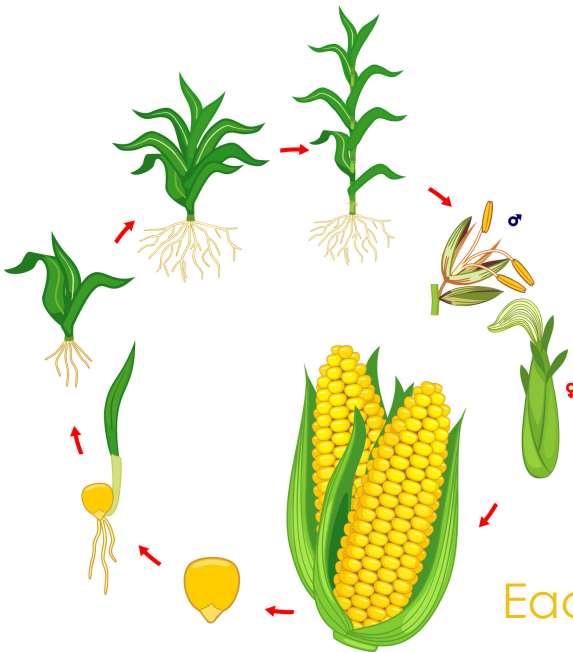
Michigan grows over **86 MILLION pounds** of sweet corn each year.

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.

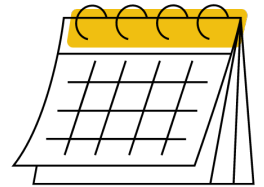
Corn is considered a **grain, fruit & vegetable.**



Nearly **10,000 acres** of sweet corn is grown in Michigan.

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.

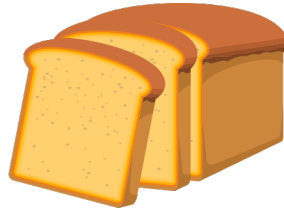
Wheat

The U.S. produces around **1.65 BILLION** bushels 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



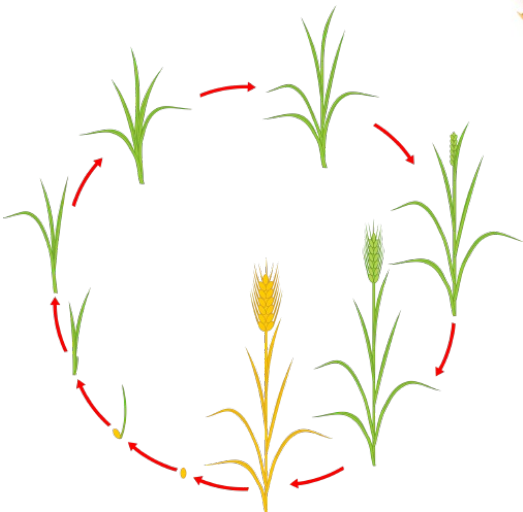
1 bushel of wheat can produce **90 loaves of bread.**

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.



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[Farm Science Lab](#)

[Grants/Awards](#)

Popular Resources



Ag Literacy Curriculum Matrix



Michigan Lessons



Agricultural Facts



Career Exploration