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Montana Agriculture

Full of Food, Farmers & Fun!



9

Crops

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Barley



Chickpeas



Corn



Flax Seeds



Huckleberries



Lentils



Oats



Peas



Wheat

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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

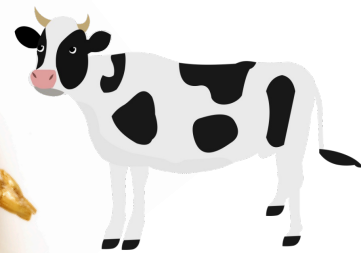
Barley is one of the **oldest** domesticated grain crops.

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.



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Chickpeas

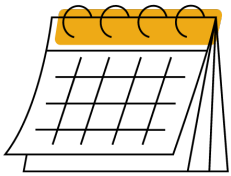
Coming Soon!



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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.

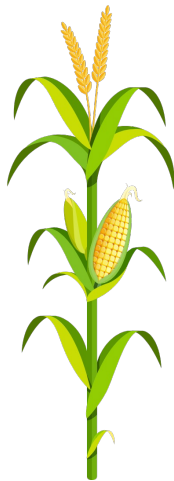
Corn is America's **number 1** field crop.

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

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

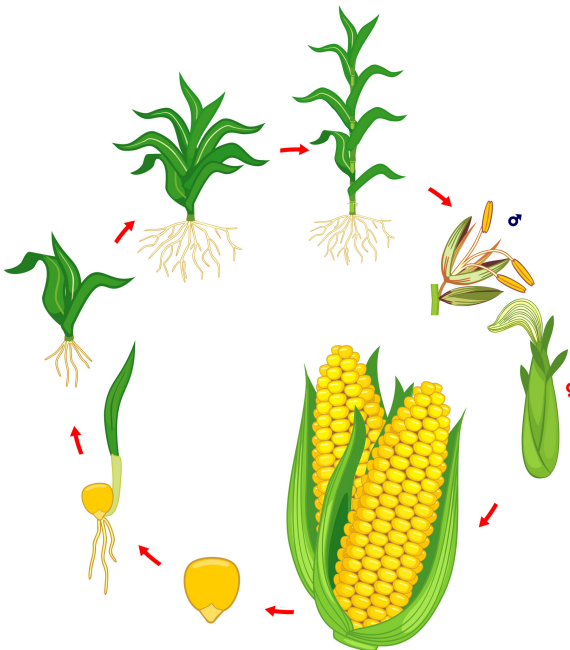


There are around **800** kernels on each ear of corn.



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.



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Flax Seeds

Flax is grown on **268,000 acres** across the U.S.

In total, the U.S. produces around **2.7 MILLION bushels** of flax each year.

Flax seeds can be **brown** or **yellow**.

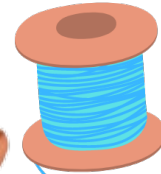
Top 2 Flax Seed Producing States:

1. North Dakota
2. Montana

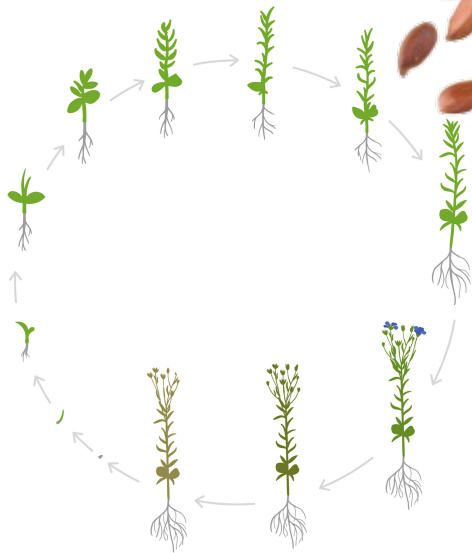
Flax was **first** used as a thread to make linens.

Flax seeds come from a **flax plant**.

Flax seeds are also known as "**linseeds**".



The blue color from the flax plant can be used to make **fabric dye**.



Flax grows best in cool climates that have long periods of daylight.

Flax is a **blue-flowering** plant.



Huckleberries

Coming Soon!



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Lentils

Montana is the **#1 producer** of lentils in the United States.

Montana is home to **500,000 acres** of lentils.

Lentils are planted in **early May** & harvested **mid-August**.



4 Main Categories of Lentils:

1. Brown
2. Green
3. Red/Yellow
4. Specialty

June - July, pale blue flowers grow on the leaves of the lentil plant.

Lentils are one of the **earliest** domesticated crops.



Brown are the most common.

A **drought** resistant crop.

Lentils grow **inside** the pods on the plant.

Lentils are a **“legume”**.

Lentils are most commonly eaten in **soups**.



There are **1-3** lentils per pod.

Lentils are a **short crop** – lentil plants never reach more than **2 feet** in height.



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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:

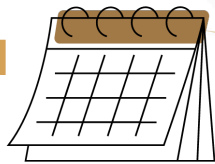
1. Husked
2. Naked

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!



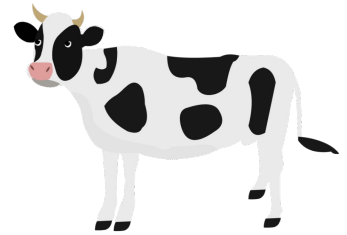
Oats are commonly rolled and made into **oatmeal**.

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



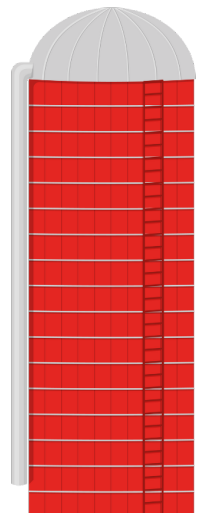
Oats are also used to make flour and alternative milk.

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**.



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Peas

The U.S. produces **450+ MILLION pounds** of peas each year.

Throughout the U.S. there are about **893,000 acres** of peas.

3 Main Types of Peas:

1. English Pea
2. Snow Pea
3. Sugar Snap Pea

Peas make a great snack!



Pea pods grow to be around **4 inches** long.

The average pea weighs **0.1 - 0.3 grams!**

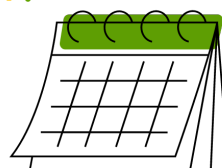


Peas are **cool-weather** crops that cannot tolerate the heat.

There are **5 - 10** peas in each pod.

A fully mature pea is **yellow**.

Harvesting takes place **60 - 70 days** after planting.



When a pea pod is **ripe**, the pod will split in half.



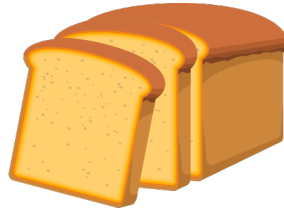
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Wheat

The U.S. produces around **1.65 BILLION** bushels of wheat each year.

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



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

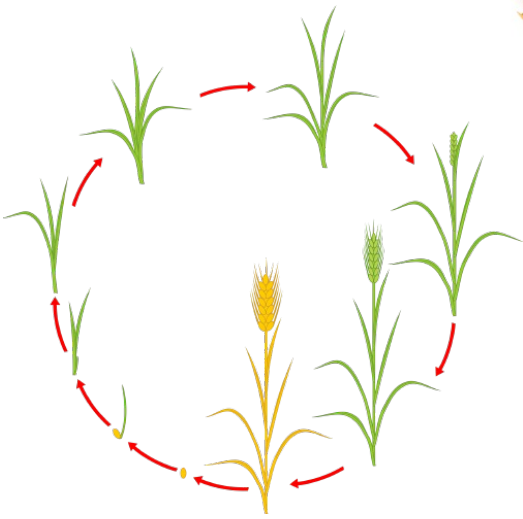
1 bushel of wheat contains around **100,000,000** individual kernels.

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

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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