

LEARN<sup>+</sup>™  
more

**North Carolina Agriculture**

*Full of Food, Farmers & Fun!*



**13**  
Crops

North Carolina Agriculture

# LEARN

More



Bell Peppers



Blueberries



Corn



Cucumbers



Grapes



Oats



Pumpkins



Soybeans



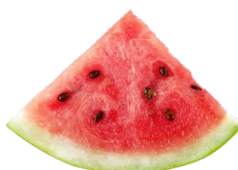
Squash



Strawberries



Sweet Potatoes



Watermelon



Wheat

North Carolina

# Bell Peppers

North Carolina produces **50+ MILLION pounds** of bell peppers each year.



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



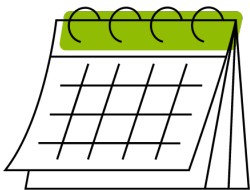
Most bell peppers are **harvested by hand**.

Most bell peppers grown in NC are from the **central Coastal Plain**.

Bell peppers are in the same family as **tomatoes, eggplant, and potatoes**.

Bell peppers are a **FRUIT**.

Bell peppers are grown all year-round.



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.

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

Bell peppers get **sweeter** the longer they ripen.



North Carolina

# Blueberries

North Carolina produces around **48.5 MILLION pounds** of blueberries per year.

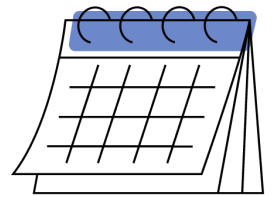
NC is home to around **3,500 acres** of blueberries.

## 4 Types of Blueberries:

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

**90%** of blueberries from North Carolina are grown in the southeast region.

**Highbush** blueberries are the most common.



**JULY** is National Blueberry Month!

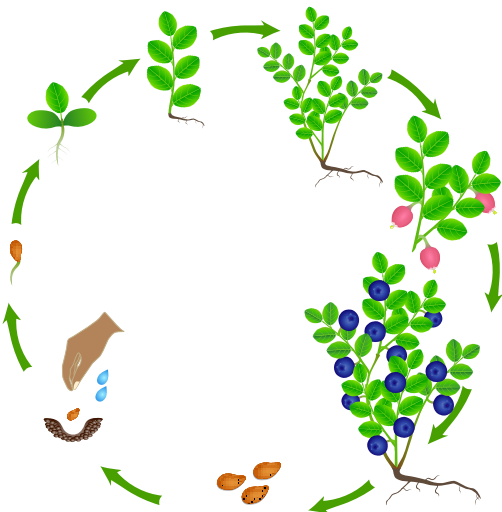
**Lowbush** blueberries are smaller & sweeter – perfect for making jam!

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



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

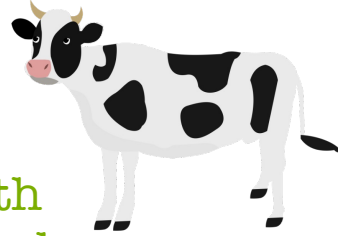
Blueberries are native to **North America**.



North Carolina

# Corn

Corn is grown on over **900,000 acres** across North Carolina.



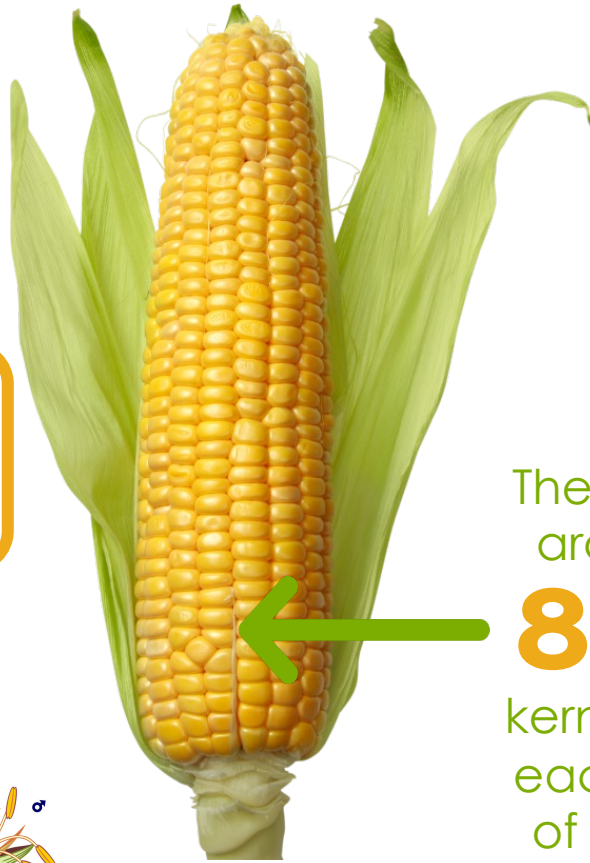
Corn is **America's number 1 field crop.**

Much of the corn grown in North Carolina is used for **livestock** feed.

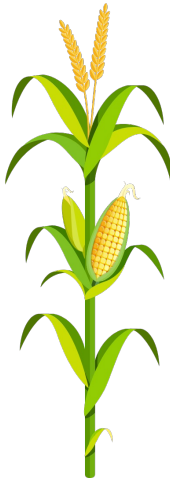
North Carolina harvests on average, **144 bushels** of corn per acre.

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

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

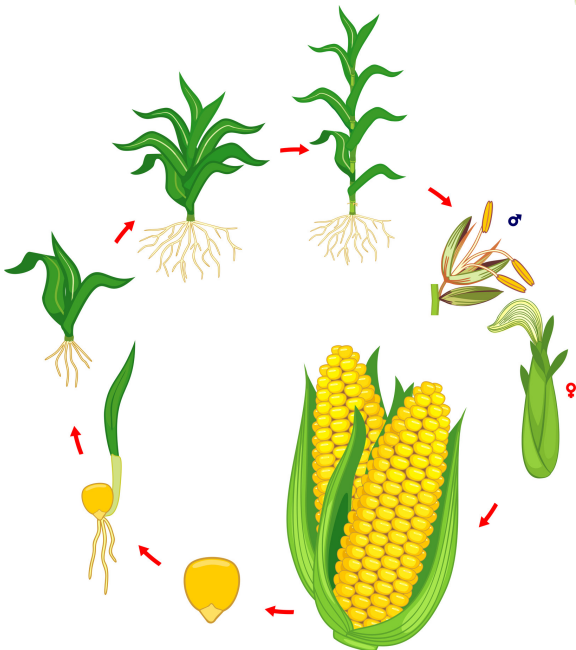


There are around **800** kernels on each ear of corn.



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

**90,000,000** acres of the earth are corn fields.



North Carolina

# Cucumbers

North Carolina is the **third largest** cucumber producing state in the U.S.

NC is home to **10,000 acres** of cucumbers.

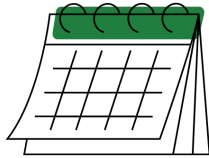
Cucumbers can be grown without the use of soil – this is called **hydroponics**.

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.



North Carolina

# Grapes

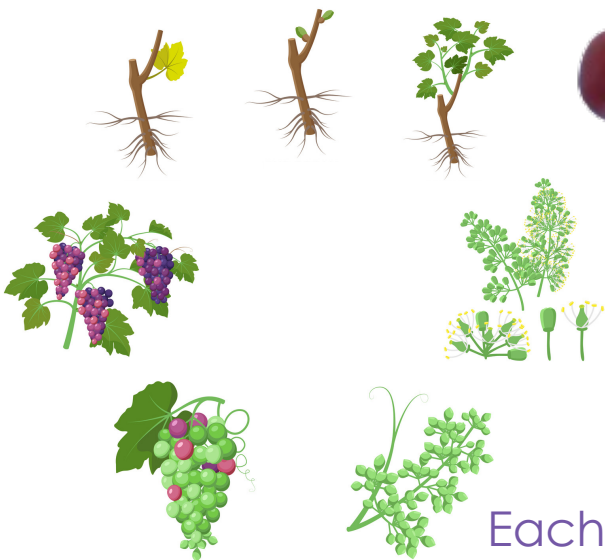
The **scuppernong grape** is the state fruit of North Carolina.



Colors of grapes: **red**, **green**, **white**, **black**, **purple**, **blue** & **gold**.

Grapes are a type of **berry**!

America's oldest grapevine is **400 years old**...located in North Carolina.



The **first** grape to be cultivated in the U.S.

**72** million tons grown worldwide each year.

Over **8,000** types of grapes.



Grapes are in peak season in the United States from **August to October**.

Grapevines can reach up to **50 feet** in length.



One vine produces around **40 clusters** of grapes.

Each cluster contains around **75** grapes.

North Carolina

# Oats

North Carolina harvests around **11,000** acres of oats each year.

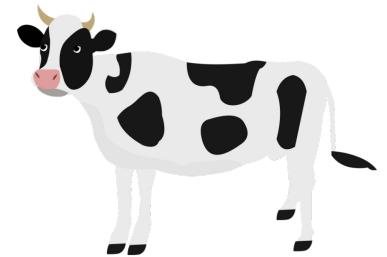
The U.S. and Canada grow **more than half** of the world's oats.

## 2 Kinds of Oats:

1. Husked
2. Naked

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

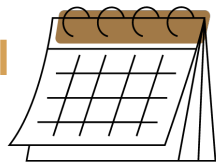
Oats are a **cool season** crop.



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

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

**January is National Oatmeal Month!**



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

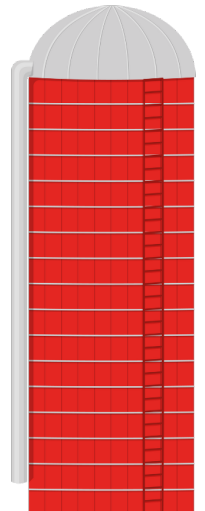


Oats are commonly rolled and made into **oatmeal**.



Oats are also used to make flour and alternative milk.

Oats are stored in **silos**.





North Carolina

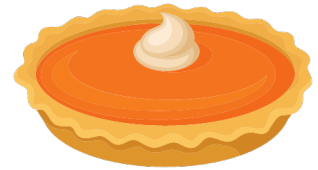
# Pumpkins

North Carolina is home to **4,000 acres** of pumpkins.



**Alleghany County, NC** grows the most pumpkins in the state.

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



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

**45+** varieties of pumpkins.

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



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

**500**

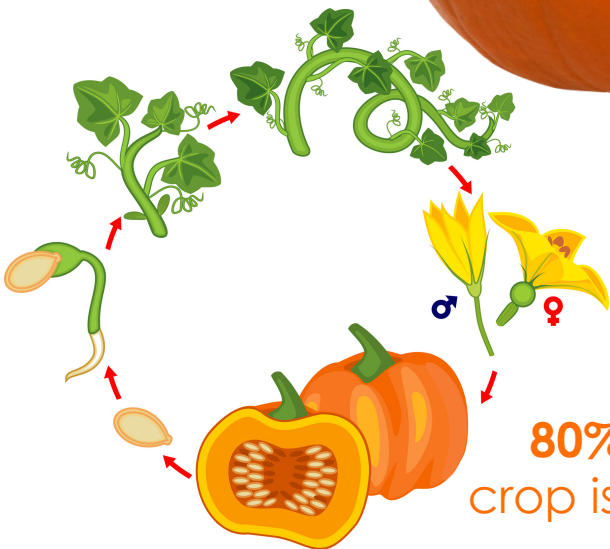
seeds/pumpkin.



Pumpkins are **90%** water.



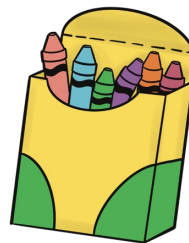
**80%** of the U.S. pumpkin crop is available in **OCTOBER.**



North Carolina

# Soybeans

75% of North Carolina's soybeans are grown on the **Eastern** side of the state.



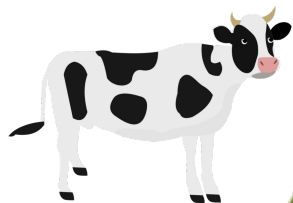
**75 MILLION**

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.



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



**"Miracle Bean"**



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

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

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



North Carolina

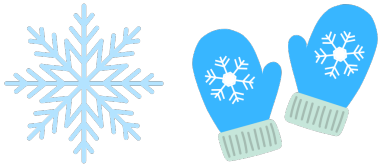
# Squash

North Carolina produces **43+ MILLION** pounds of squash each year.

NC is home to around **3,200 acres** of squash.

**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!**



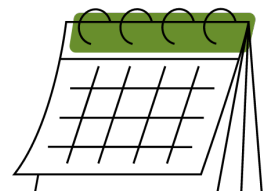
Examples of summer squash are **zucchini, yellow & scallop.**

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.

North Carolina

# Strawberries

North Carolina is the **3<sup>rd</sup> largest** strawberry producing state in the U.S.

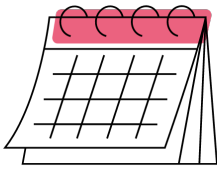
North Carolina's **official state berry** is the strawberry.

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.



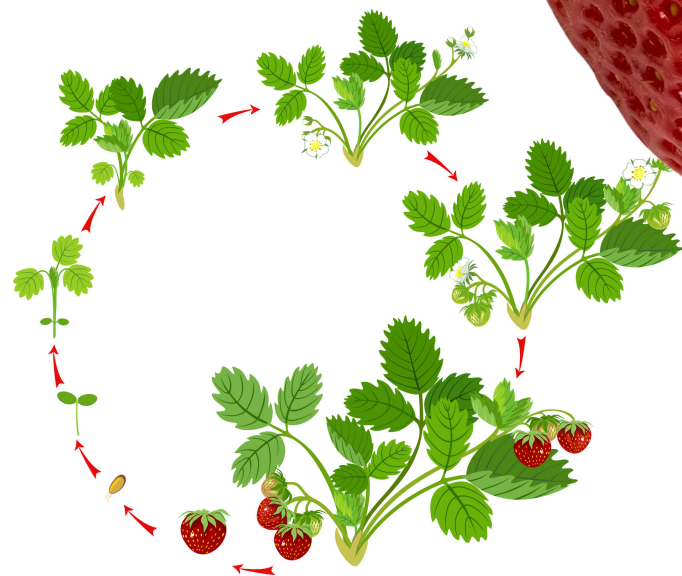
All strawberries are hand picked.



The average strawberry has **200** seeds.

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

California produces **75%** of the strawberries in the U.S.



North Carolina

# Sweet Potatoes

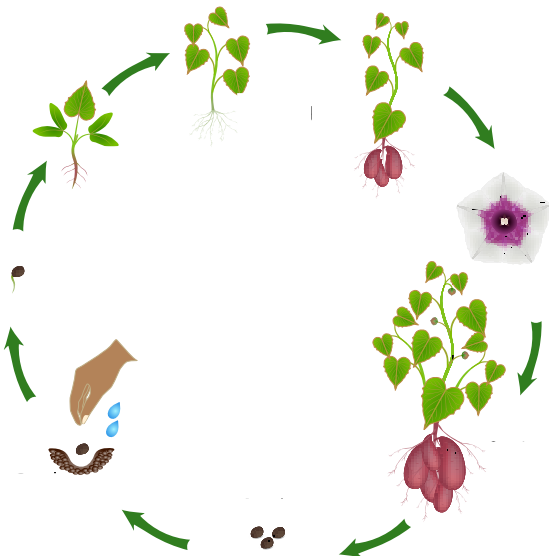
North Carolina is the **#1** sweet potato producing state in the U.S.

North Carolina produces around **1.8 BILLION** pounds of sweet potatoes each year.

**64%** of U.S. grown sweet potatoes come from NC.

Sweet potato roots are harvested **90-120** days after planting.

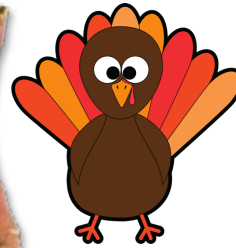
A **root** vegetable.



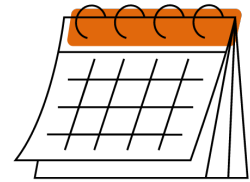
Sweet potatoes thrive in North Carolina's **warm & humid** climate.



A popular **Thanksgiving** side dish.



Sweet potatoes are in season **year-round!**



**FEBRUARY**

National Sweet Potato Month!

**Jewel** is the most popular variety of sweet potato.



Sweet potatoes can be **orange, yellow, red, white** or **purple**.



North Carolina

# Watermelon

North Carolina is the **5<sup>th</sup> largest** watermelon producing state in the U.S.

North Carolina is home to **9,000+ acres** of watermelon.

Watermelons are **92% water**.

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



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

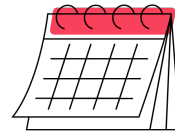
**Seedless** watermelon are most popular.

**255+ MILLION** pounds of watermelon are produced each year in **North Carolina**.

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

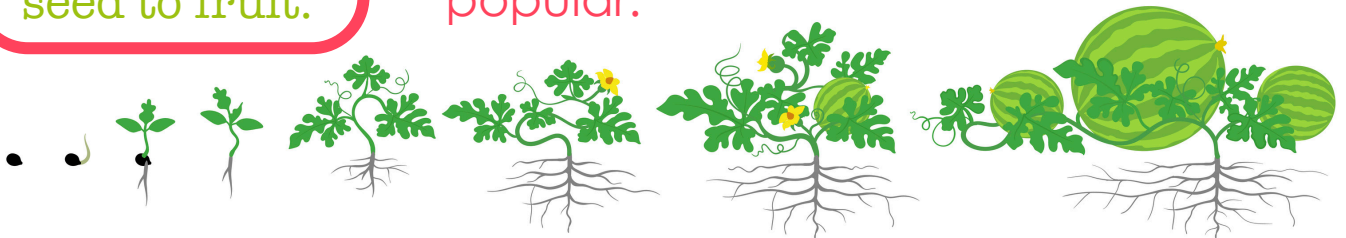


Harvested by hand.



**JULY**

**National Watermelon Month**



# Wheat

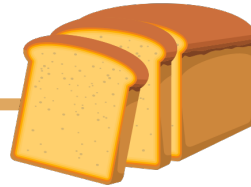
There are approximately **4,150 farms** in North Carolina that grow wheat.

Most NC wheat is used for **livestock**.

## 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 contains around **100,000,000** individual kernels.



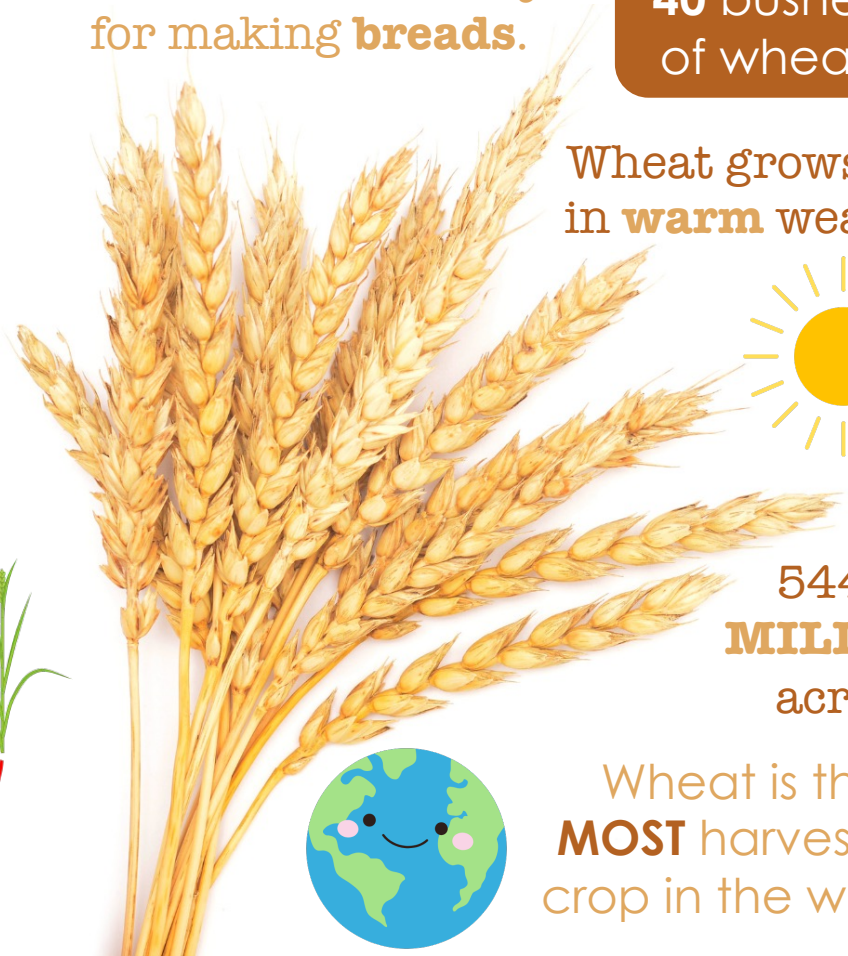
1 bushel of wheat can produce **90 loaves of bread**.

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

1 acre = **40** bushels of wheat.

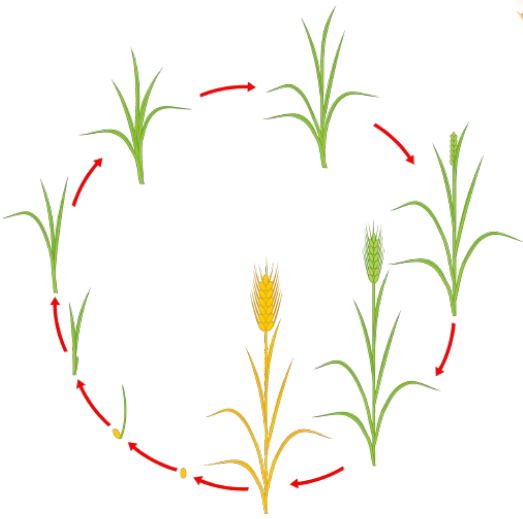
The average wheat crop grows to be between **2 & 4 feet tall**.

Wheat grows best in **warm** weather.



**544.6 MILLION** acres.

Wheat is the **MOST** harvested crop in the world.



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