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# New Jersey Agriculture

*Full of Food, Farmers & Fun!*

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**10**  
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New Jersey Agriculture

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New Jersey

# 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.



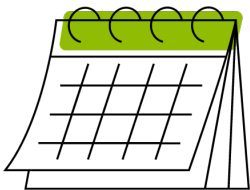
Bell peppers can be **2 to 6** inches long.



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.



New Jersey

# Blueberries

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

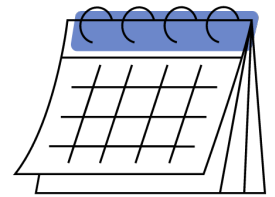
Only half of blueberries produced in the U.S. are sold **fresh**.

## 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!

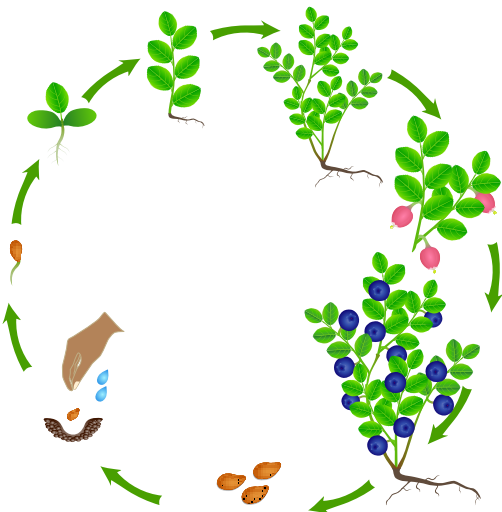
**Lowbush** blueberries are smaller & sweeter – perfect for making jam!

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



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

Blueberries are native to **North America**.

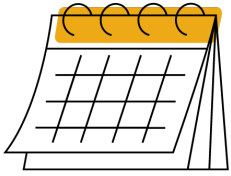




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# Corn

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.

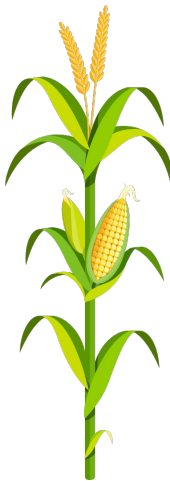
Corn is America's **number 1** field crop.

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

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

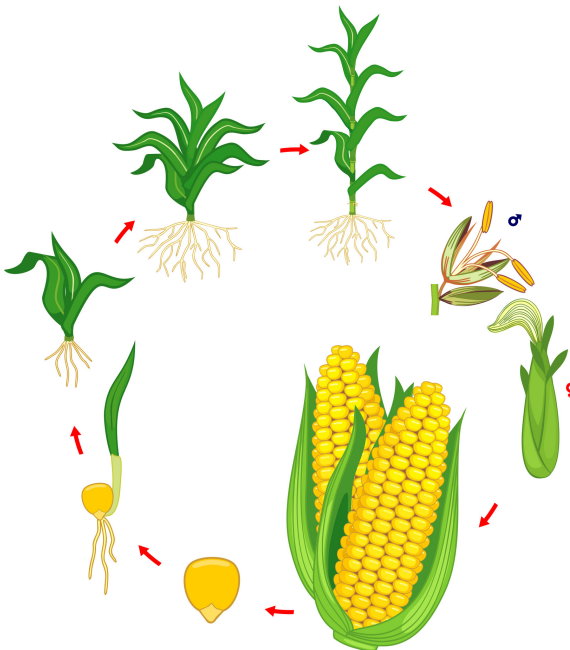


There are around **800** kernels on each ear of corn.



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.



New Jersey

# Cranberries

Around **60 MILLION** pounds of cranberries are produced in New Jersey each year.

New Jersey is the **3<sup>rd</sup>** largest cranberry producing state.

Cranberries are commercially grown in man-made **wetlands** or **bogs**.



Cranberries are one of the few fruits **native** to North America.

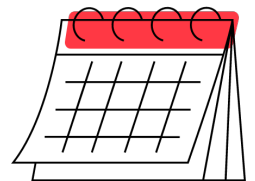
Cranberries are **90%** water.



Cranberries have small air pockets that allow them to float.

**5%** of cranberries produced are sold fresh. The rest are turned into **juice**.

Cranberries are typically in season from **October** to **November**.



**20%** of total cranberries consumed in the U.S. each year, are consumed the week of **Thanksgiving**.





New Jersey

# Cucumbers

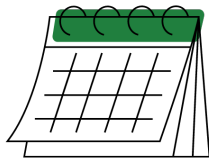
New Jersey is the **4<sup>th</sup> largest** cucumber producing state in the U.S.

Around **58 MILLION pounds** of cucumbers are grown each year in NJ.



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

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



NJ is home to **3,100 acres** of cucumbers.

Cucumbers are **90%** water.



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.



New Jersey

# Milk

New Jersey is home to **4,100** dairy cows.

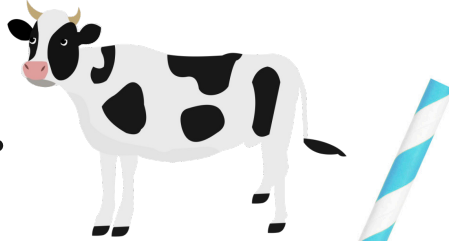
**87 MILLION** pounds of milk is produced in New Jersey each year.



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

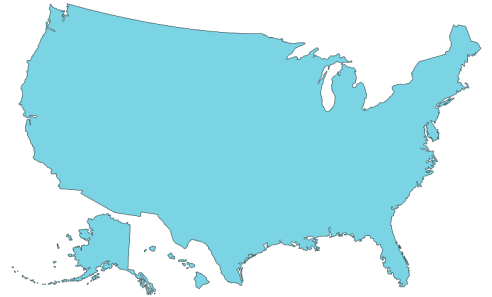
**6**

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!**

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

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

Farmers measure milk in **pounds**.

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



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



New Jersey

# Peaches

The U.S. produces around **625,000 TONS** of peaches each year.

1 peach tree can produce up to **66 pounds** of fruit each year.

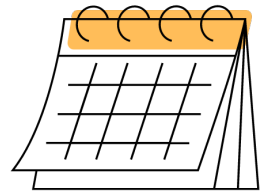
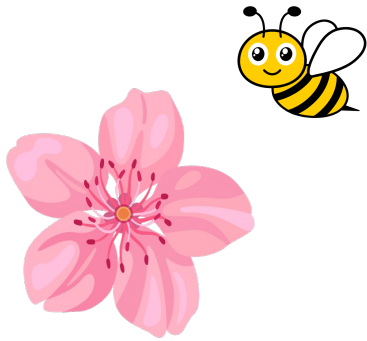
## 2 Main Varieties of Peaches:

- 1.clingstone
2. freestone

“Persian plum”

### AUGUST

National Peach Month

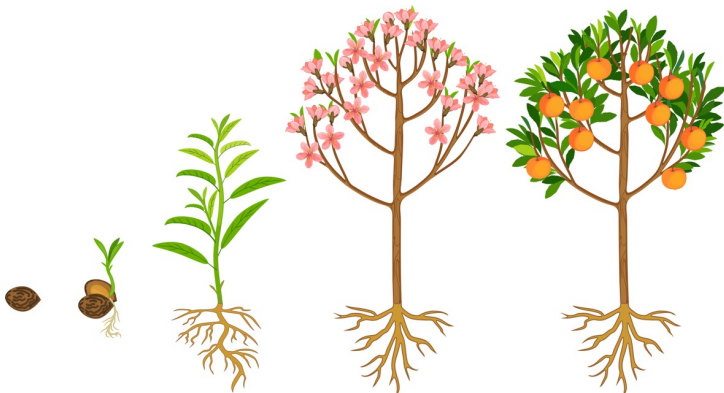


Once pollinated, peaches take **3-5 months** to reach harvesting point.

Peaches are in peak season from **June** - the end of **August**.



Peaches are harvested by **HAND**.



Peach trees can produce fruit for **12 years**.

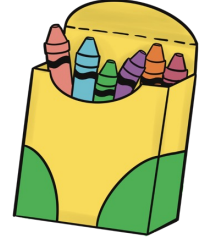
Peach trees usually grow to be around **25 feet tall**.



New Jersey

# Soybeans

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

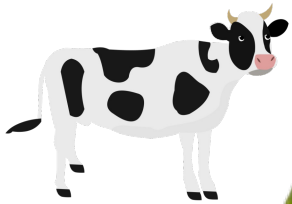


**75 MILLION** acres of farmland are used for growing soybeans in the U.S.

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.





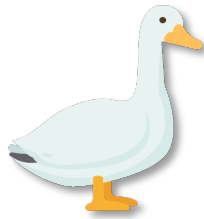
New Jersey

# Spinach

The U.S. is the **2nd largest** spinach producing country in the world & produces **960,000+ pounds** of spinach/year.

## 3 Main Types of Spinach:

1. Savoy
2. Semi Savoy
3. Flat-Leaf



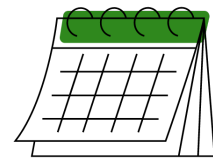
Spinach is a part of the “**goosefoot family**” because of the shape of its leaves.

**FRESH** spinach is the **BEST** spinach!



Spinach loses half of its major nutrients **8 days** after harvesting.

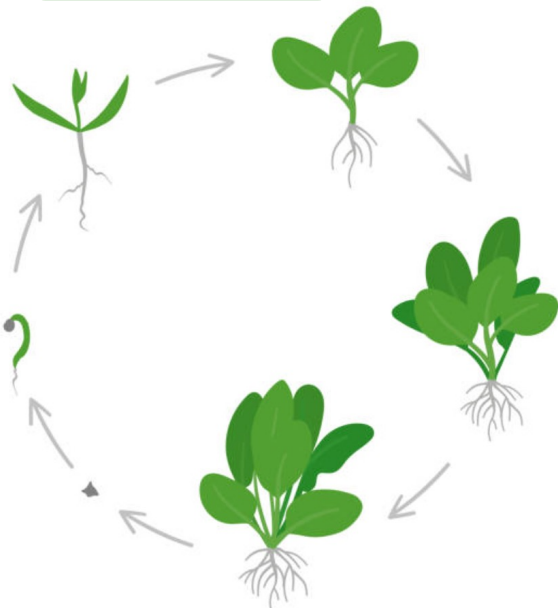
**Flat-Leaf** spinach is the best known & most popular.



Spinach prefer to grow in **cooler climates**.

**Late spring/early summer** is peak spinach season.

Spinach thrives when grown in **sandy** soils.



New Jersey

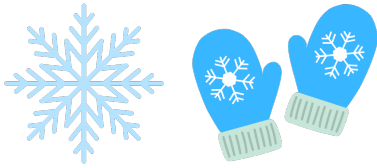
# Squash

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.**

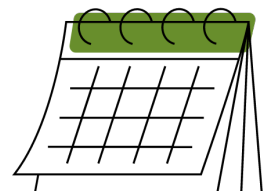
Summer squash grows **faster** than winter squash.

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.





New Jersey

# Tomatoes

Tomatoes are the **official state vegetable** of New Jersey.

New Jersey ranks in the **top 10 states** for tomato production in the U.S.

## 3 Popular Types of Tomatoes:

1. Cherry
2. Grape
3. Roma



Tomatoes come in a **variety** of colors.

Tomatoes are the **second most** grown crop in New Jersey!

**"Wolf peach"**



**93%** of

Americans grow tomatoes in their own garden.



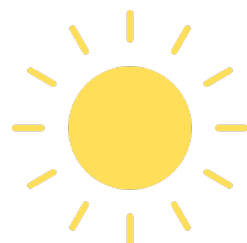
Botanically, tomatoes are a **fruit!**

Tomatoes are grown in **ALL** 50 states!

Over **10,000** varieties of tomatoes.

Tomatoes are at peak harvest **July - September**.

Tomatoes are a warm season crop that **love** the sun.





[Teaching Resources](#)

[Grants/Awards](#)

[Programs/Events](#)

## Popular Resources



Basic Gardening



STEM Design Challenges



What's In Season



NJ AITC Teacher of the Year