

LEARN<sup>+</sup>™  
more

**Texas Agriculture**

*Full of Food, Farmers & Fun!*



**19**  
Crops

Texas Agriculture

# LEARN *More*



Cabbage



Chiles



Corn



Cucumbers



Grapefruit



Jalapeños



Milk



Oats



Okra



Oranges



Potatoes



Pumpkins



Rice



Soybeans



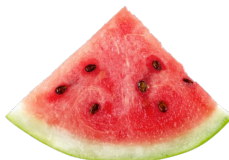
Spinach



Sugarcane



Sunflowers



Watermelon



Wheat

Texas

# Cabbage

15% of cabbage in the United States is produced in Texas.

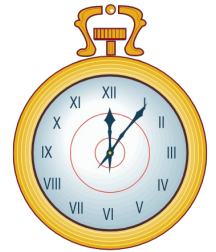
Cabbage grows best in a lot of **sunlight**.



Cabbage is a “**cold-weather veggie**.”

Cabbage is one of the **OLDEST** vegetables in existence...has been harvested for over **6,000** years!

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

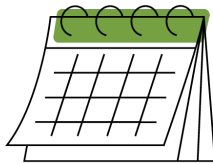


**Types of Cabbage:**

1. Early
2. Late

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

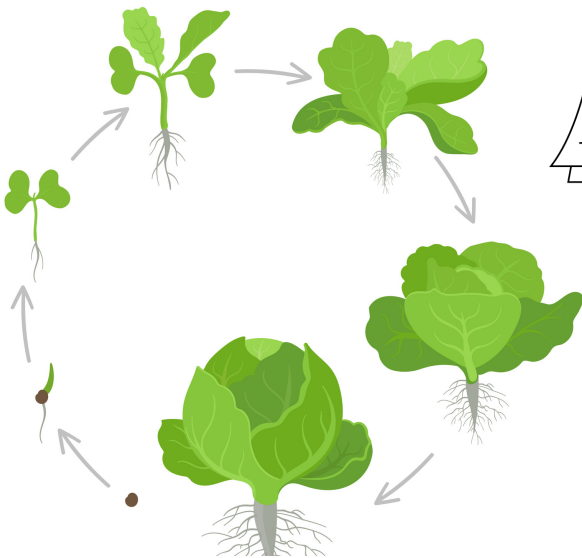
Early cabbage takes **45 days** to mature, and late cabbage takes **87 days**.



**400+** varieties of cabbage.

The most **popular** varieties of cabbage:

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



Texas

# Chiles

Texas' state native pepper is the **chiltepín**.



The Scoville scale ranks **chiltepín** peppers between **50,000 - 100,000**.

Chile peppers are a **fruit**.

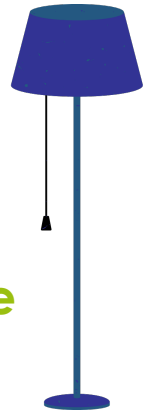
Chile peppers come in a variety of different colors.

Chiltepín peppers are around **20 times hotter** than jalapeño peppers.

Chile peppers thrive in **long, hot days and warm nights**.



Chile peppers can be eaten fresh or dried.



Chiles are a part of the **nightshade** family.

Ideally **8 - 12** hour long days.



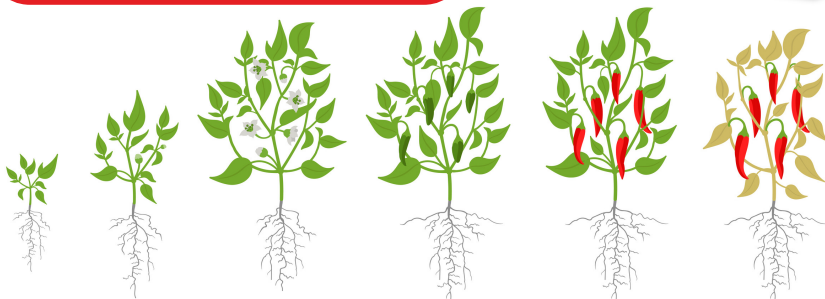
The heat of chile peppers are measured on a **Scoville scale**.

Chiles get **spicier** the longer they ripen on the vine.



The best way to cool down your mouth after eating a spicy pepper is with milk.

**Capsaicin** is the compound in peppers that make them spicy.



Texas

# Corn

Texas plants more than **2 million acres** of corn each year.

Texas averages **285 million bushels** of corn harvested each year.

In Texas, corn is grown for **BOTH** human consumption as well as feed for cattle.

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

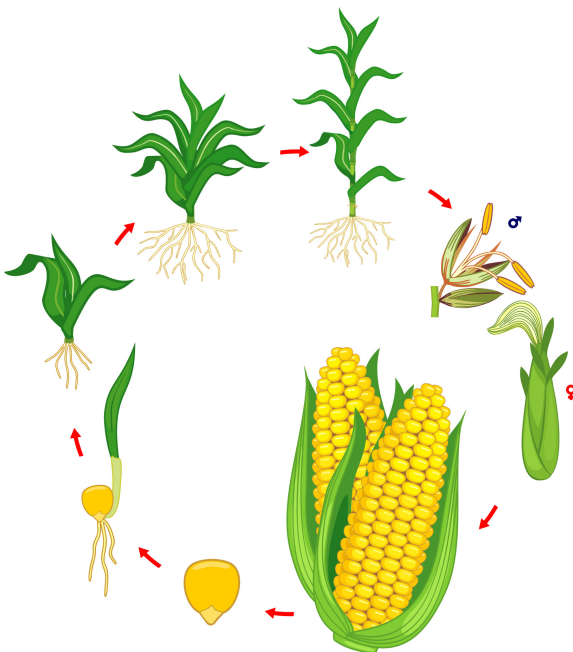
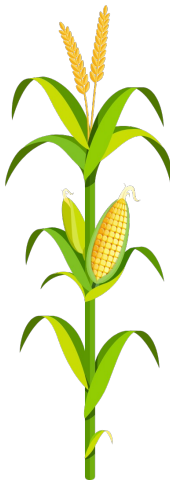
Corn is considered a **vegetable, fruit AND a grain!**

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.



Texas

# Cucumbers

4,700 acres of cucumbers are harvested each year in Texas.

In Texas, cucumbers can be harvested in both the **spring** and **fall**.

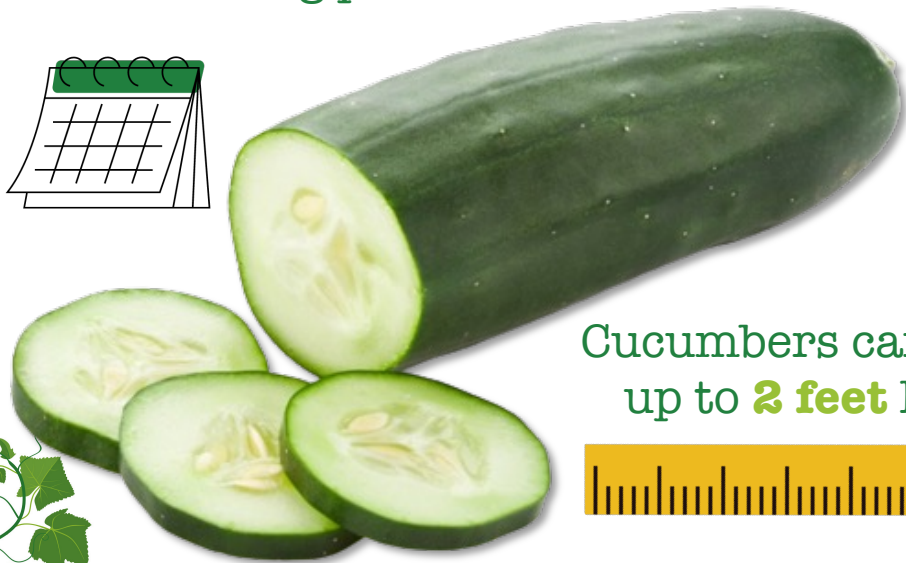
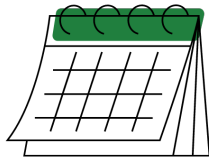
Cucumbers can be grown without the use of soil – this is called **hydroponics**.

Cucumbers are **90%** water.



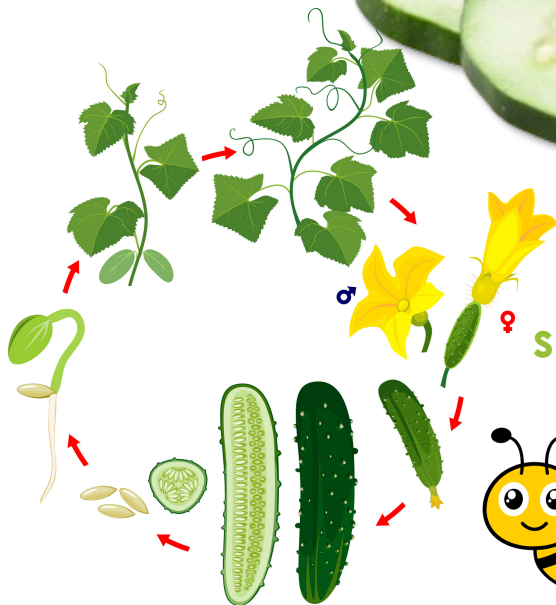
Cucumbers take **12 weeks** to produce fruit after being planted.

**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.

Texas

# Grapefruit

The **official state fruit** of Texas is the red grapefruit.

Grapefruits are harvested by hand.



The U.S. grows the **MOST** grapefruits in the world.

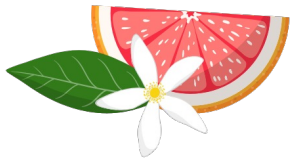


**Rio Star & Ruby Sweet** grapefruits are **ONLY** grown in Texas.

“The Forbidden Fruit”



The **Lower Rio Grande Valley** is where most grapefruits are grown in Texas.



Grapefruit trees can reach up to **45 feet** high.

In the U.S. there are

**20+**

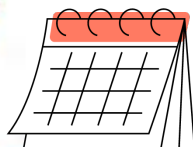
varieties of grapefruits grown.

Grapefruits grow in **clusters**...like grapes!



Up to 25 grapefruits per cluster.

Grapefruit trees take **6-13 months** to produce fruit.



Texas

# Jalapeños

The jalapeño pepper is the **official state pepper** of Texas.

The heat of peppers are measured on a **Scoville scale**.

Jalapeños are usually around **2,000 - 8,000** Scoville heat units - making them a relatively mild pepper.

Jalapeño plants produce up to **25-35** peppers each.

**Capsaicin** is the compound in peppers that make them spicy.

Texas is home to **12,00 acres** of land growing jalapeños.

Top **3** Jalapeño Producing States:

1. Texas
2. New Mexico
3. California

Jalapeños are actually **RED** when they are fully mature.

The more the jalapeños mature, the **spicier** they get.

Jalapeños have been to space! The Columbia Space Shuttle took them on their trip in 1982!





Texas

# Milk



Texas produces more than **15 billion pounds** of milk per year.



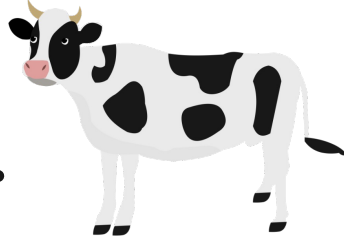
70% of dairy farms in Texas are located in the **panhandle**.

Texas is ranked **5<sup>th</sup>** in the nation for milk production.

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

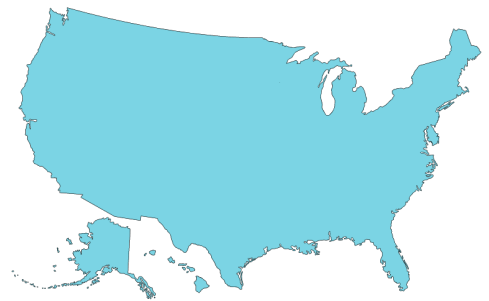
# 6

## Breeds of Dairy Cows:



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

**ALL 50 states** have dairy farms!



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

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

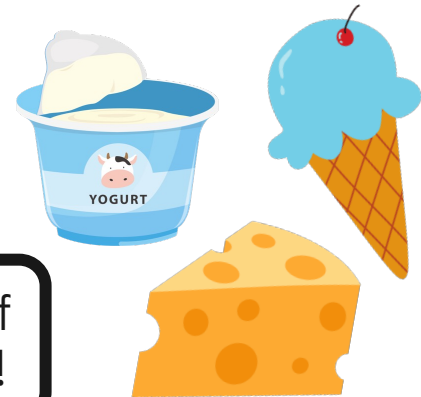


Farmers measure milk in **pounds**.

The U.S. produces **~227 BILLION** pounds of milk each year.

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

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



Texas

# Oats

450,000 acres of land in Texas grows oats, with the majority being harvested for livestock feed.



## 2 Kinds of Oats:

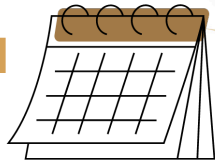
1. Husked
2. Naked

The best areas to grow oats in Texas are in **Central** and **South** Texas.

Oats are a **cool season** crop.

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

January is **National Oatmeal Month!**



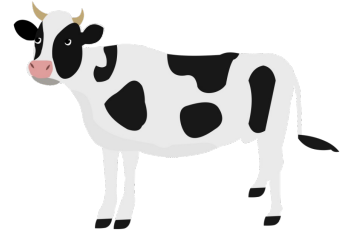
Oats are commonly rolled and made into **oatmeal**.

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



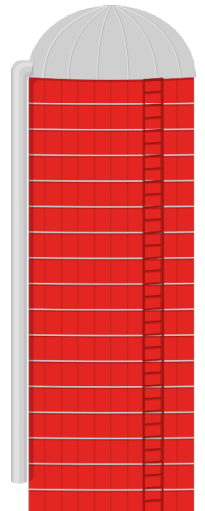
Oats are also used to make flour and alternative milk.

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**.



Texas

# Okra

Okra is one of the **most common vegetables** grown in Texas



Okra grows best in **South & Central** Texas.

## 4 Common Types of Okra:

Okra is a **warm-season** crop.

1. Clemson Spineless
2. Jambalaya
3. Star of David
4. Burgundy

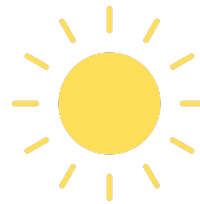
**“Lady fingers”**

Okra is ready to harvest **60 - 70 days** after being planted.

Okra **pods** are usually **2 - 3 inches** long.

Okra is

**90%**  
water.



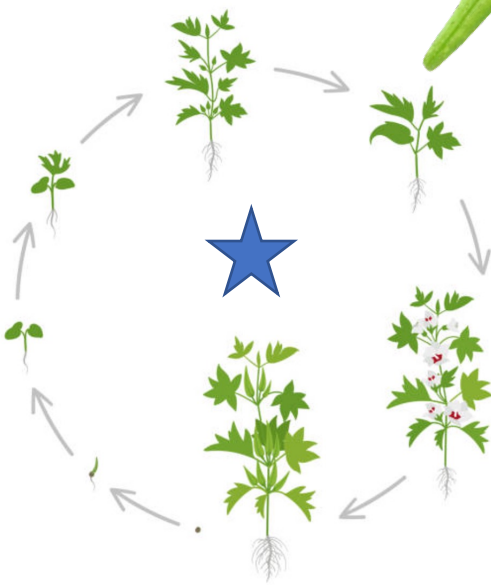
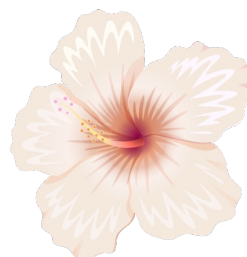
Okra plants thrive in **full sun**.



Okra plants can grow to be over **6 ft tall!**



Okra produces **hibiscus-like** flowers.



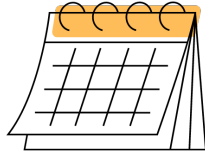
Texas

# Oranges

90% of oranges grown in Texas are grown in the **Rio Grande Valley**.

Texas harvests **6,500 acres** of oranges each year.

## 3 Popular Types of Oranges:



Orange season is 9 months long!  
**October - June!**

1. Navel
2. Hamlin
3. Valencia



**600+**  
varieties  
of oranges.

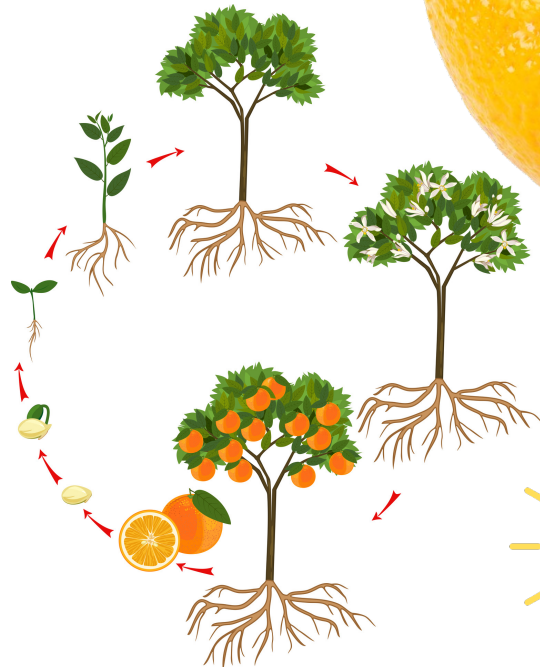
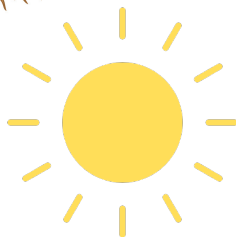
**Vitamin  
C**

Most oranges are harvested by hand.



**Sub-tropical** areas are ideal conditions for growing oranges.

Oranges need a lot of **sunshine** and **warm** temperatures.



Texas

# Potatoes

Many varieties of potatoes grow in Texas...including Viking, Atlantic, Century Russet & **many others.**

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



**35%** of potatoes are turned into French fries.



Potatoes are grown in **ALL** regions of Texas.

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

**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.

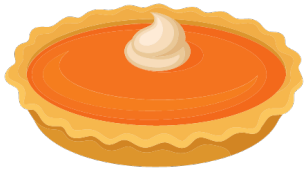


Texas

# Pumpkins

5,000 – 8,000 acres of pumpkins are planted in Texas each year.

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.

90% of Texas pumpkins are grown in the **West region of Texas.**

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



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

**500**

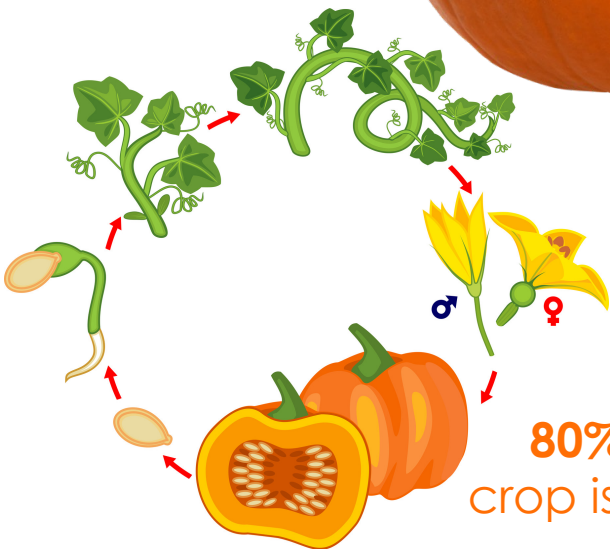
seeds/pumpkin.



Pumpkins are **90%** water.



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



Texas

# Rice

Most of Texas' rice production is location in its **upper coastal areas**.

Texas grows mainly **long-grain rice**.

Texas produces around **225,000 acres** of long-grain rice per year.

Rice is grown on approximately **2.8 million** acres of land across the U.S.

Rice is one of the **MOST** labor intensive crops.

Uncooked white rice will stay fresh & edible for **10-30 YEARS!**

Over **40,000** types of rice.

White rice is just brown rice that has been polished of its outer bran layer.



Steps to harvesting rice: **cutting, stacking, handling, threshing, cleaning & hauling.**

Rice plants can grow up to **6 feet** tall.



Texas

# Soybeans

Texas harvests **85,000 acres** of soybeans each year that produces **1,700,000 bushels**.



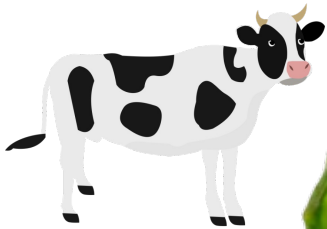
**75 MILLION**

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.

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

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



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



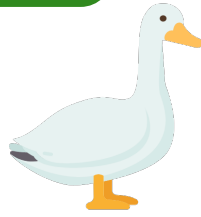
Texas

# Spinach

Texas is home to around **3,000 acres** of spinach.

Spinach is harvested in Texas from November to April.

## 3 Main Types of Spinach:



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

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

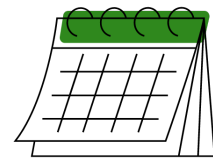
**FRESH** spinach is the **BEST** spinach!



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

### Flat-Leaf

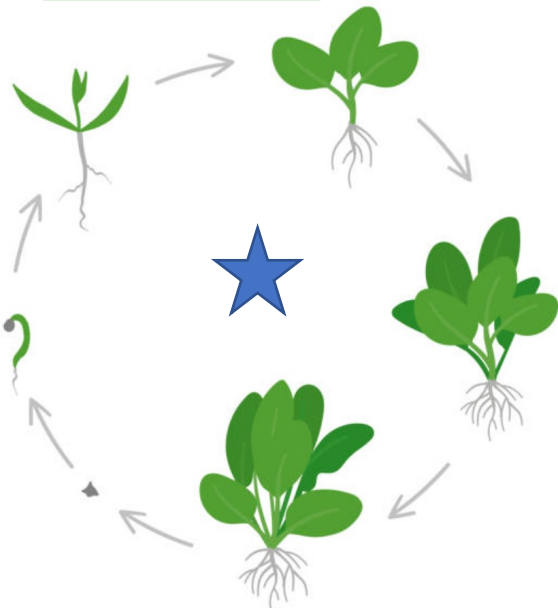
spinach is the best known & most popular.



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

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

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



Texas

# Sugarcane

**1.5 MILLION TONS** of sugarcane is harvested in Texas each year.

Sugarcane is a **tropical** plant, similar to bamboo.



Each stalk of sugarcane contains around **30 teaspoons** of sugar.



Sugar is **stored** in the stalks of the sugarcane.



Sugarcane requires **365 days** of frost-free weather to grow.

Sugarcane is harvested to make **sugar!**



Over **50%** of sugarcane is **harvested by hand**.

A skilled harvester can harvest **1,100 pounds** of sugarcane **per hour**.



Sugarcane can be anywhere from **6 - 20 feet tall**.



Sugarcane requires **high temperatures** and **high rainfall**.

Texas

# Sunflowers

There are over **15 different species** of sunflowers that are **native** to Texas.

Sunflower **seeds** are a popular snack for baseball players.



Sunflowers aren't *always* **yellow** – they also can be **red, purple** or **brown!**

The world record for **TALLEST** sunflower was 30 feet and 1 inch tall.



Sunflowers symbolize positivity.



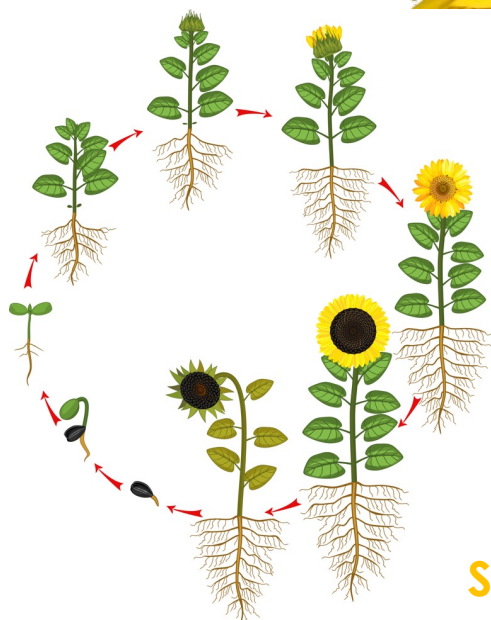
Sunflowers are at **PEAK** bloom in mid-summer.



The head of a sunflower is made up of **thousands** of tiny flowers.

Young sunflowers turn and face the **sun** as it rises and then continue to follow throughout the day.

**Sunflowers follow the SUN!**



Texas

# Watermelon

42,00 acres of watermelon is grown throughout Texas.



Over **100 counties** throughout Texas grow watermelon.

There are over **1,200 different varieties** of watermelon grown around the world.

Watermelon are considered both a **fruit AND a vegetable**.

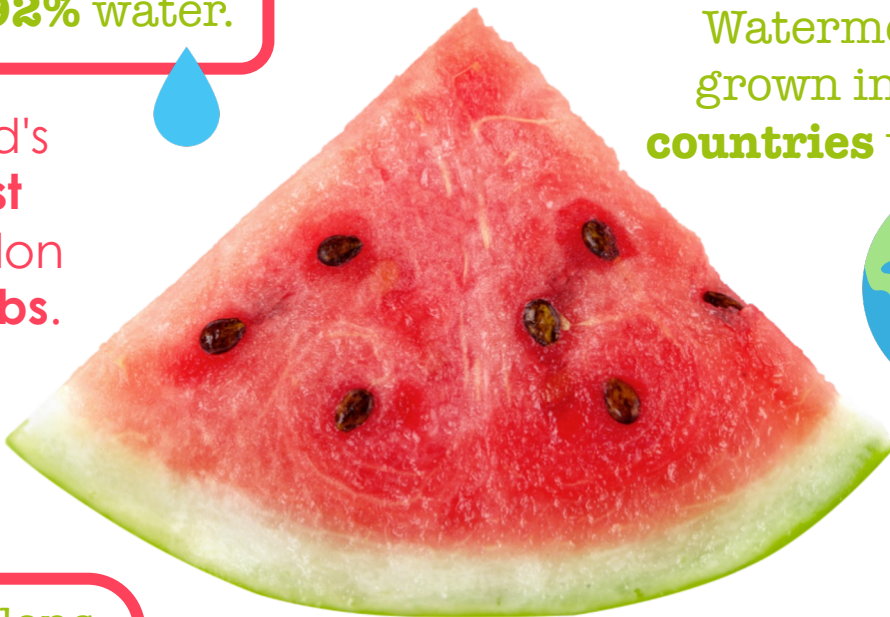
Watermelons are **92% water**.



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



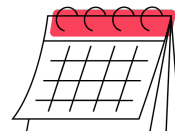
The world's **heaviest** watermelon was **350 lbs**.



Harvested by hand.

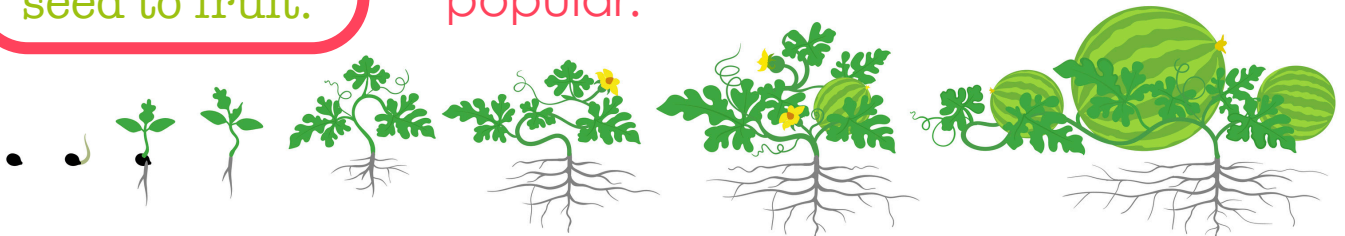
Watermelons take **90** days to grow from seed to fruit.

**Seedless** watermelon are most popular.



**JULY**

**National Watermelon Month**



Texas

# Wheat

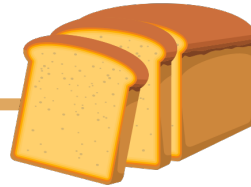
Texas grows both **Hard Red Winter** wheat as well as **Soft Red Winter** wheat.

**6 MILLION acres** of wheat grown in TX.

## 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.**

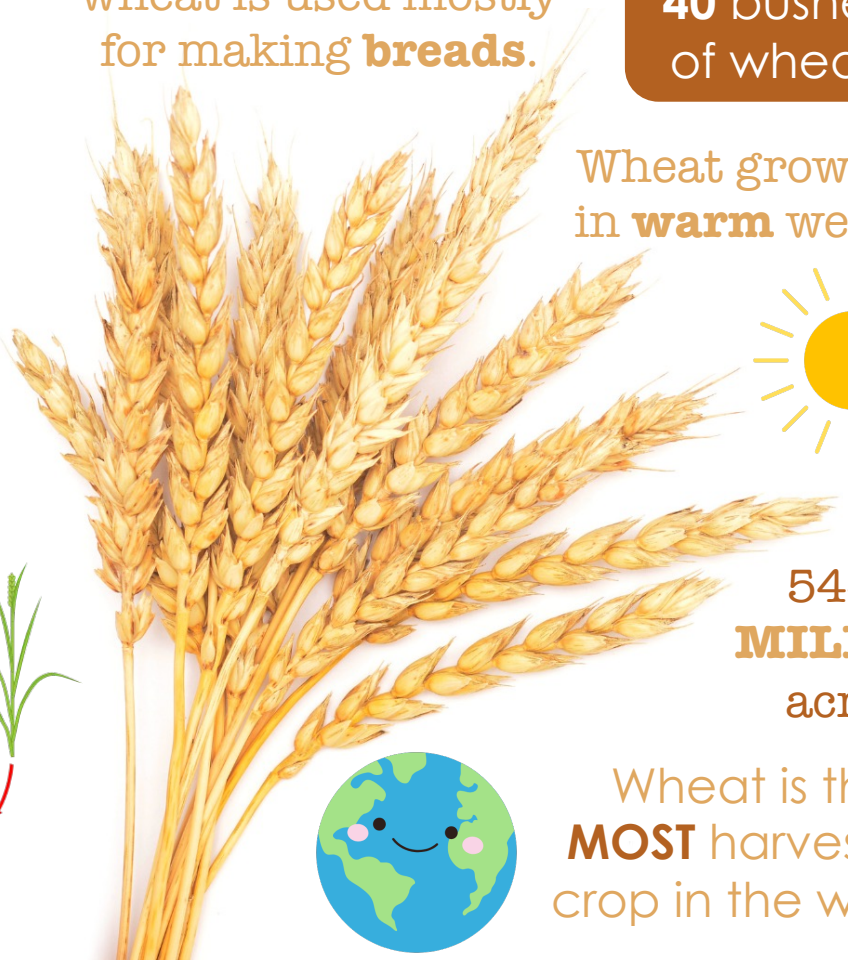
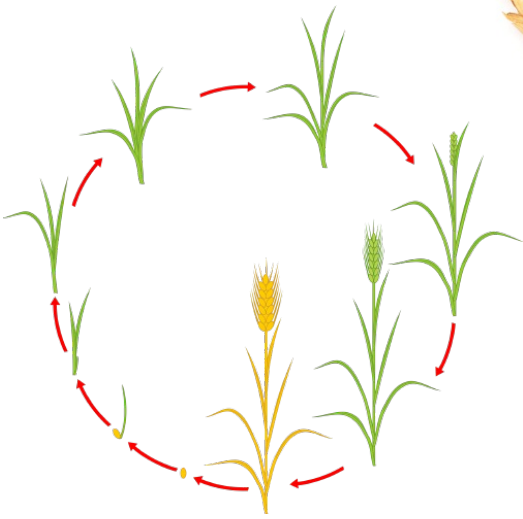
1 acre = **40 bushels** of wheat.

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.

# Learn More Library

