

D I G I T A L M A G A Z I N E

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more

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# Washington Agriculture

*Full of Food, Farmers & Fun!*

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**20**  
Crops

E N R I C H M E N T

Washington Agriculture

# LEARN <sup>+</sup> More



Apples



Asparagus



Barley



Blueberries



Carrots



Cherries



Chickpeas



Grapes



Huckleberries



Lentils



Mint



Pears



Peas



Potatoes



Pumpkins



Raspberries



Rhubarb



Sweet Corn



Sweet Onions



Wheat

Washington

# Apples

Washington harvests **10-12 BILLION** apples each year.

The amount of apples grown in Washington each year would be able to **circle the Earth 29 times!**



apples make **1 gallon** of cider.



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



An **apple blossom** is the flower that comes from an apple tree.

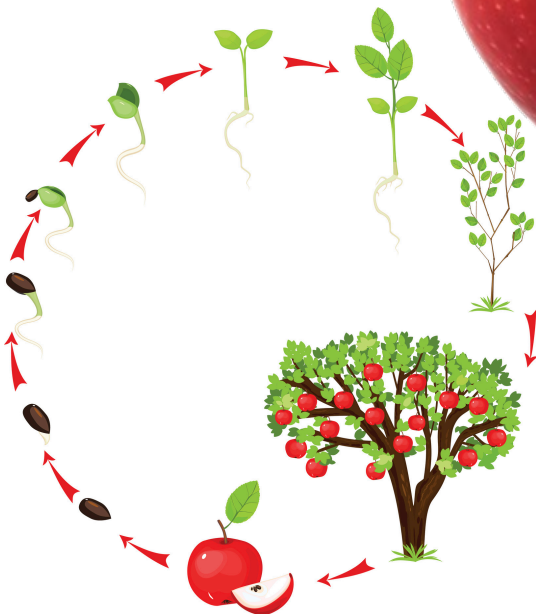
An apple tree takes at least **4 years** to start producing fruit.

Most apples are **HAND-PICKED.**



**2,500**

varieties of apples are grown in the United States.



Washington

# Asparagus

Washington is the **largest** asparagus producing state in the U.S.

Washington is home to around **4,500 acres** of asparagus.

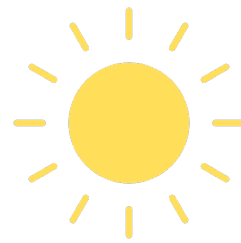
Asparagus grown in Washington is **harvested** from **late March - June**.

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

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

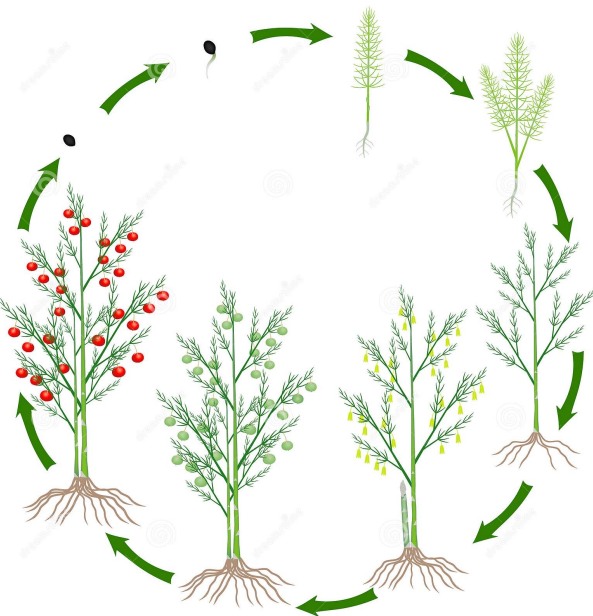


Asparagus can reproduce for up to **20 years!**



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.

Washington

# Barley

Washington produces around **4.5 million** bushels of barley each year.

WA is home to around **94,000 acres** of barley.

## Ways to Classify Barley:

The U.S. produces mostly **spring** barley.

1. Spring Barley
2. Winter Barley
3. 6-Row Barley
4. 2-Row Barley

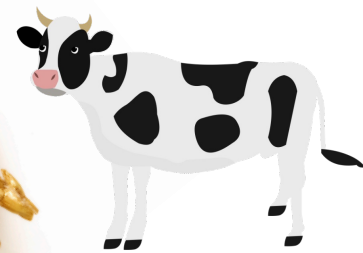
Barley is one of the **oldest** domesticated grain crops.

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.



Washington

# Blueberries

Washington is home to over **18,000 acres** of blueberries.

Washington is the **#1 blueberry producing state** in the U.S.

## 4 Types of Blueberries:

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

Blueberries are native to **North America**.

Washington blueberries are usually **in season** from **July – September**.

**Highbush** blueberries are the most common.



**JULY** is National Blueberry Month!

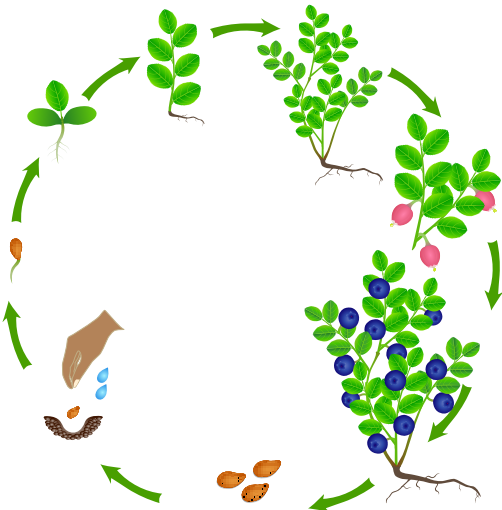
**Lowbush** blueberries are smaller & sweeter – perfect for making jam!

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



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

Protects from insects & bacteria.



Washington

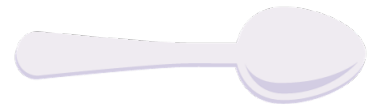
# Carrots

Around **10,000 acres** of carrots are planted in Washington each year.

Carrots are **88%** water.

Carrots take **4 months** to complete growing.

Carrots are the **2<sup>nd</sup> most popular** vegetable in the world, after potatoes.



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

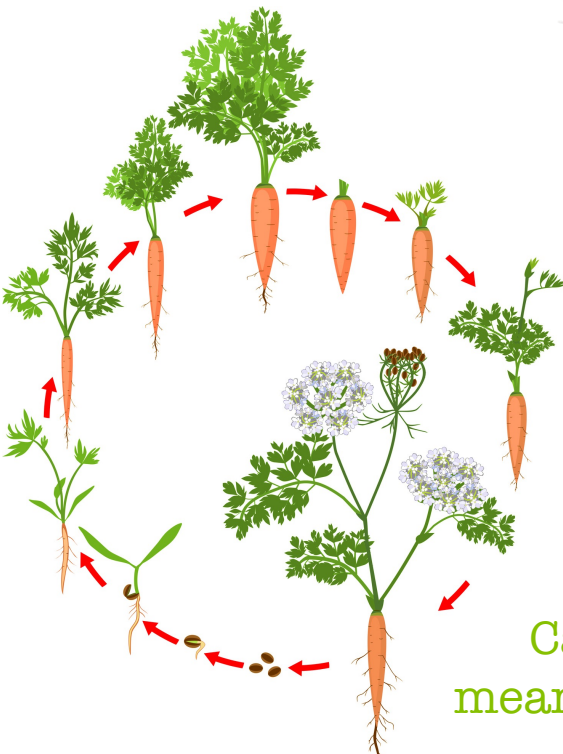
Carrots thrive in overall **cooler** temperatures.



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.



Washington

# Cherries

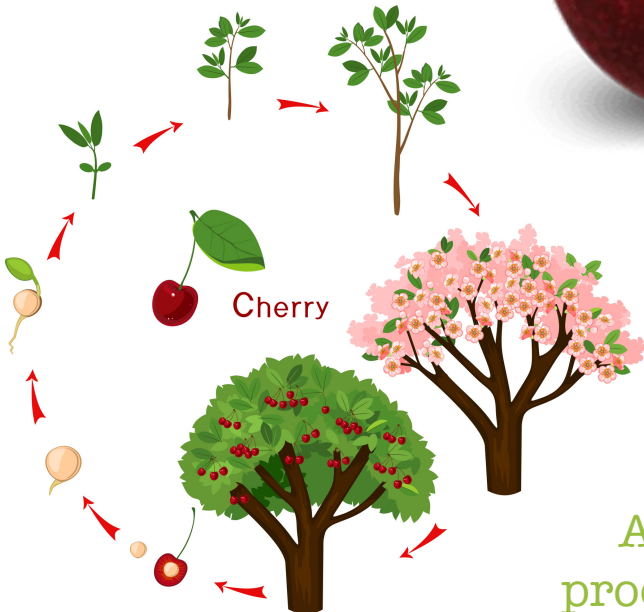
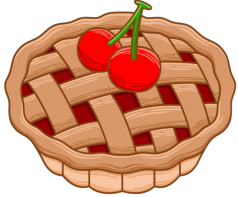
Washington produces around **240,000 TONS** of sweet cherries each year.

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

**Bing** is the most popular variety of sweet cherries.

Cherries are a type of **stone fruit**.

Tart cherries are most often used for baking.



Washington is the **largest sweet cherry** producing state in the U.S.

Cherries are a part of the **rose family**.

Over **1,000** varieties.

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

Cherry trees can be up to

**33 ft** tall!

A typical cherry tree produces ~

**7,000** cherries.

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





# Chickpeas

Coming Soon!



Washington

# Grapes

Washington is the nation's #1 producer of Concord (juice) grapes

**72**

million  
tons grown  
worldwide  
each year.



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

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



Grapes are a  
type of **berry**!

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



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.



# Huckleberries

Coming Soon!



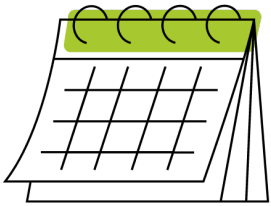
Washington

# Lentils

Washington harvests around **43,000 acres** of lentils each year.

## 4 Main Categories of Lentils:

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



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



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



**Brown** are the most common.

Lentils are a **drought** resistant crop.

Lentils are one of the **earliest** domesticated crops. **11,000 B.C.**

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



Lentils are a “**legume**”.

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



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

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



Washington

# Milk

Washington is home to **500+** dairy farms & **254,000** dairy cows.

**6.2 BILLION** pounds of milk is produced in Washington each year.

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

**6**

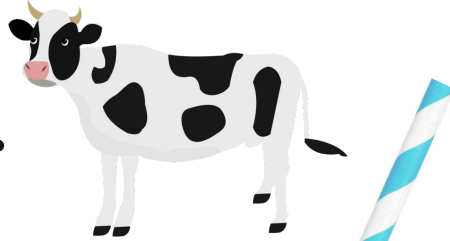
Breeds of Dairy Cows:

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

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

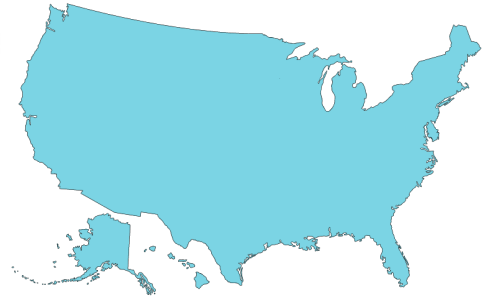
**1 cow** produces around **6 gallons** of milk per day.

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



Farmers measure milk in **pounds**.

**ALL 50** states have dairy farms!



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



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



# Mint

Coming Soon!



Washington

# Pears

Washington is the **largest** pear producing state in the U.S.

Washington harvests around **285,000 TONS** of pears on **17,500 acres** of land each year.

Pears used to be called "**butter fruit**" because of their soft texture.



Over **3,000** varieties of pears.

Washington & Oregon produce **84%** of all pears grown in the U.S.

Pear tree **wood** is often used to make musical instruments.



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



Pears are a part of the rose family.



Pears are considered to be the most *fragile fruit*.

**30-40 ft.** tall trees.



**ALL** pears are picked by **HAND**.

Common types of pears: **Anjou, Bartlett, Bosc, Comice & Forelle.**

Washington

# Peas

Washington is the **#1** pea producing state in the U.S.

Washington harvests over **162 MILLION pounds** of peas each year.

## 3 Main Types of Peas:

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

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



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

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



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

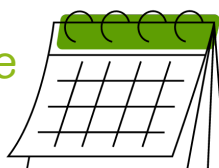


Peas are **cool-weather** crops that cannot tolerate the heat.

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

A fully mature pea is actually **yellow**.

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





Washington

# Potatoes

Washington grows over **23%** of the United States potato production.

**99%** of Washington potato farms are **family owned**.

## Top **3** Potato Producing States:

1. Idaho
2. Washington
3. Wisconsin

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



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

**AUGUST 13**

**National Potato Day**

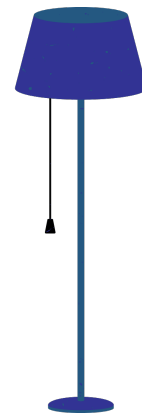
Potatoes are also referred to as **“spuds”**.

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



Potatoes are grown **underground**.

Potatoes are an **annual** plant.



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



Washington

# Pumpkins

Each year, Washington harvests around **3,000 acres** of pumpkins.

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

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



**45+**  
varieties of  
pumpkins.

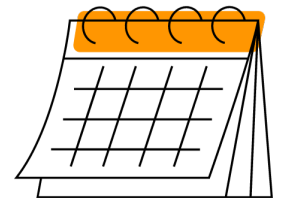


Pumpkin pie is the **most popular** Thanksgiving dessert.

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



Pumpkins are **90%** water.

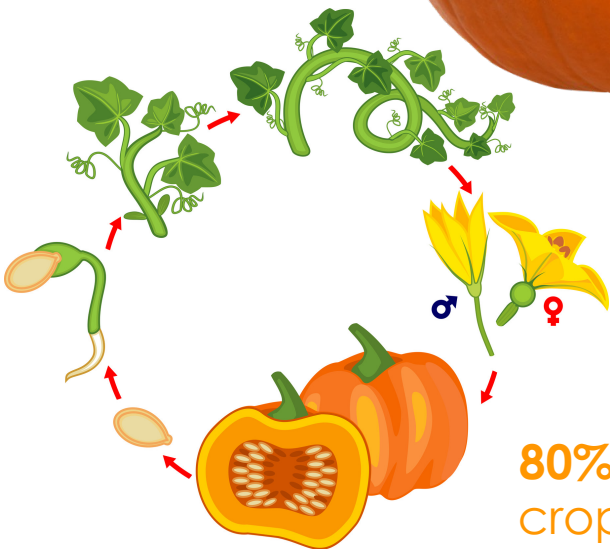


**500**  
seeds/pumpkin.



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

Pumpkin season is from **mid-September** through **November.**



Washington

# Raspberries

60% of raspberries grown in the U.S. come from Washington.

Raspberries grown in Washington are **in season** from **June – August**.

Washington is home to around **8,300 acres** of raspberries.



Raspberries are a part of the **rose** family.

Raspberries are usually a sign of **SUMMER!**

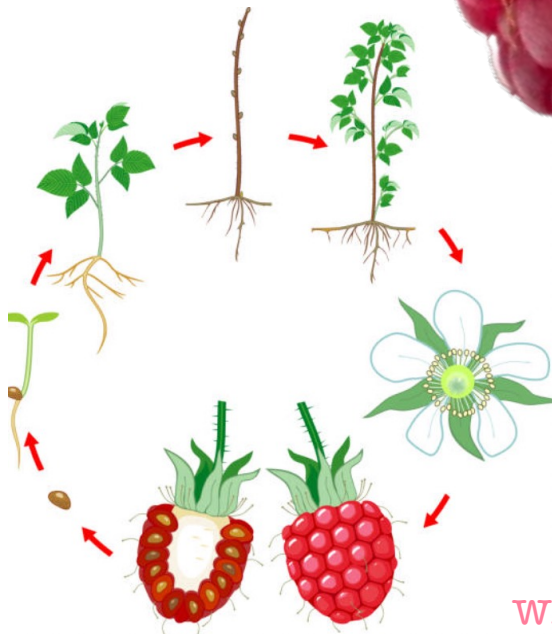


Raspberry plants can live for up to **10 years**.



**200+** varieties of raspberries.

1 raspberry plant can produce **300+** raspberries per year.



Depending on the variety, raspberries can be **purple**, **gold** or **black**.



Raspberries grow best in places with **cool summers & mild winters**.



# Rhubarb

Coming Soon!



Washington

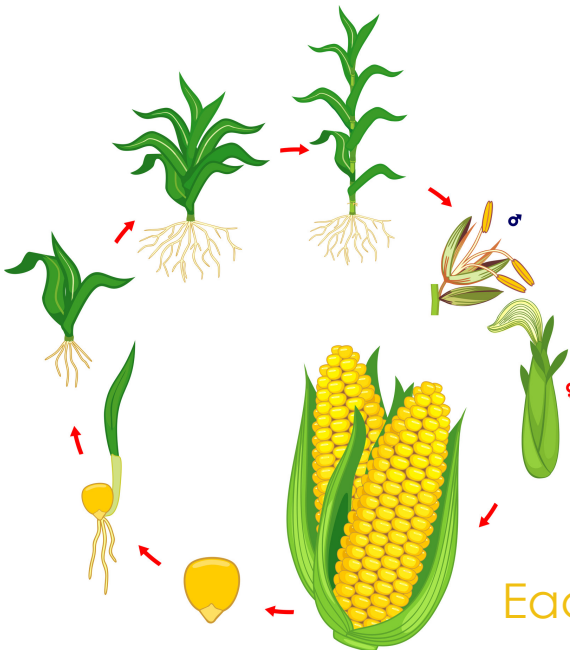
# Sweet Corn

Washington is home to **72,000 acres** of sweet corn.

All **50 states** grow sweet corn – find some at your local farmer's market!

Only **1%** of the corn grown in the U.S. is sweet corn.

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



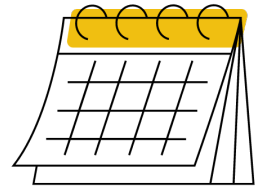
Sweet corn is pollinated by the **wind**.

Each stalk produces **1 - 3** ears of corn.

Washington harvests **1.5+ BILLION pounds** of sweet corn each year.

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

Sweet corn is in *peak* season from **May - Sept.**

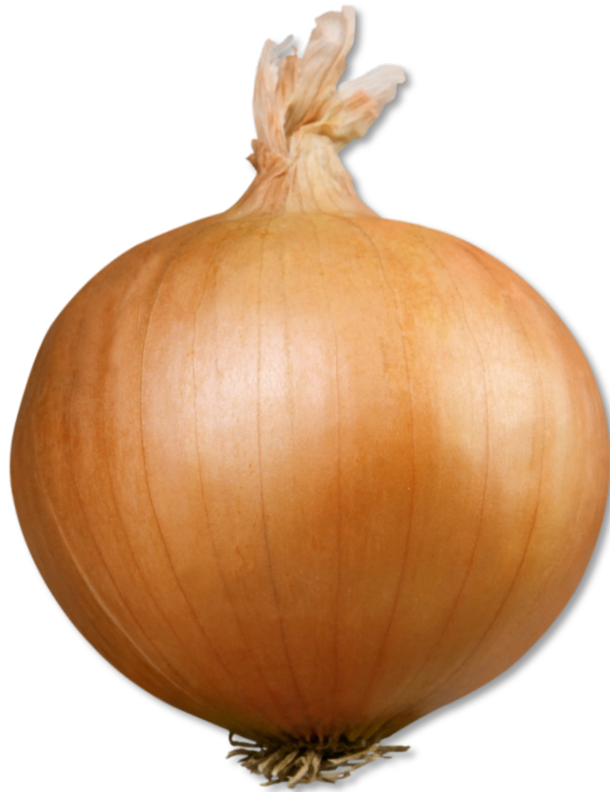


Around **800** kernels on each ear of corn.

Sweet corn is the **ONLY** corn grown for **human** consumption.

# Sweet Onions

Coming Soon!

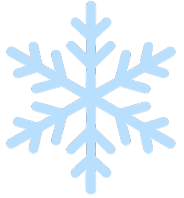


Washington

# Wheat

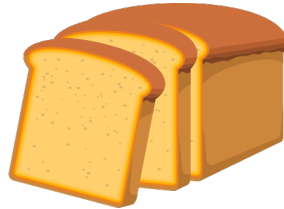
Washington is home to over **2.3 MILLION acres** of wheat.

Washington grows mostly **Winter wheat.**



## 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



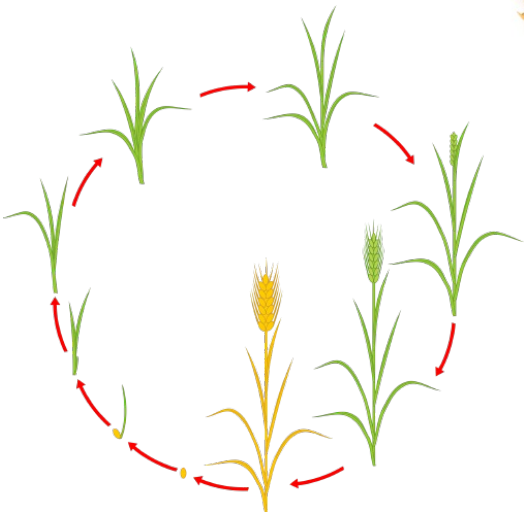
1 bushel of wheat can produce **90 loaves of bread.**

**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.

# Learn More Library

