AG MAG

Specialty Crops

Let's Color and Learn

fruits
vegetables
tree nuts
Apples are a fruit. They belong to the rose family. Apples come in almost every shade of red, green and yellow.

A bushel of apples weighs 42 pounds, and can produce 20-24 quarts of applesauce.

Asparagus is a vegetable grown for its delicious young shoots. Rich in B vitamins, vitamin C, calcium, and iron, asparagus is one of the first crops of spring harvest.
Beets are a member of the goosefoot (chenopod) family. In earlier times people just ate the beet greens and not the root. People today eat both.

Berries

Blackberries are grown commercially in Oklahoma.

A blackberry is best eaten fresh. However, they can also be used in preparing jam, jellies, ice cream, cakes and pies.

Blueberries are one of the only natural foods that are truly blue in color.

Native Americans once called blueberries “star berries,” because the five points of blueberry blossoms make a star shape.
Black Eyed Peas

Black-Eyed Peas are a minor commodity in Oklahoma. Also called cowpea or southern peas, they have been Oklahoma’s number one vegetable crop for several years. The small beige bean has a black circular “eye” at its inner curve.

Broccoli

Broccoli is a cool season vegetable. It grows well in Oklahoma gardens in early spring and in the fall.

In Latin broccoli means “branch,” or “arm.”
Cauliflower

Cauliflower is a vegetable, related to broccoli. It is a cool season crop, grown in Oklahoma gardens early in the spring and in the fall. Cauliflower provides us with Vitamin C.

Cabbage

Cabbage is one of only a few vegetables available fresh in the winter time.

Cabbage is a cool weather vegetable that grows fine in Oklahoma gardens, as long as it is planted very early in the spring or in the fall.
Cantaloupe grows well in Oklahoma.

Cantaloupe are the most popular melon in the United States.

Carrots are a taproot, a type of root which grows downwards into the soil and swells. Carrots come in many sizes and shapes. Carrots are very easy to grow.
Cucumbers are a great source of Vitamin A, Vitamin C, calcium and potassium.

Have you ever heard anyone say “as cool as a cucumber”? Cucumbers are made mostly of water, making them feel cool inside.

Grapes

Oklahoma is a great place for grapes to grow. Grapes are still harvested by hand in many places.

Grapes are full of Vitamin K and Vitamin C. They also have fiber, iron and calcium.
Green Beans

Green beans are a popular vegetable all around the world. They grow as a plant in your garden. They can climb high on trellis or supports. Green beans are also known as string beans or snap beans.
Draw a line from the word to the picture of the specialty crop.

ASPARAGUS
TOMATO
STRAWBERRY
GREENS
PEACH
GRAPES
BLUEBERRIES
PEPPER
RADISH
BROCCOLI

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Fruit or Vegetable?

Draw a circle around the fruit and a square around the vegetables. Don't forget to color them too!

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Ag Counts

Can you count the crops on the map of Oklahoma?

How many apples do you see? ________
How many beets do you see? ________
How many carrots do you see? ________
How many pears do you see? ________
How many pecans do you see? ________
How many squash do you see? ________
How many tomatoes do you see? ________
How many watermelons do you see? ________

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A-maze-ing Food

Dana’s favorite foods are fruits and vegetables. Can you help her get through the maze while collecting all the healthy food?
Find the specialty crops you’ve learned about in the puzzle below.

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Connie had 13 berries. She ate 6. How many berries are left?

Ryan had 10 apples. He gave 4 to Joey. How many apples does Ryan have left?

Rachel had 3 strawberries. She ate 2. How many strawberries are left?

Shannon had 6 peaches. Larry gave her 3 more. How many peaches does she have now?

Jeremy picked 12 watermelon. Eric picked 8 cantaloupe. How many melons do they have altogether?

Trisha picked 15 grapes. She ate 7. How many grapes are left?

Stephanie had 8 pears. Sarah gave her 5 more. How many pears does she have now?

Audrey had 10 blueberries. She ate 5. How many are left?
Mystery Veggies

Using the key below, find the name of the mystery vegetables.

1  19  16  1  18  1  7  21  19

2  5  5  20  19

2  18  15  3  3  15  12  9

3  1  2  2  1  7  5

3  1  18  18  15  20  19

7  18  5  5  14  19

18  1  4  9  19  8

16  5  16  16  5  18  19

19  24  5  5  20  16  15  20  1

15  20  15

1=A  2=B  3=C  4=D  5=E  6=F  7=G  8=H  9=I  10=J  11=K  12=L  13=M  14=N  15=O

16=P  17=Q  18=R  19=S  20=T  21=U  22=V  23=W  24=X  25=Y  26=Z

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1
apple

2
spears of asparagus
3 beets

4 berries
5 black eyed peas

6 bunches of broccoli
7 heads of cabbage

8 cantaloupe
9 carrots
10 cauliflower

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cucumber

grapes

green beans

greens
What kind of socks do you need to plant asparagus?
- Garden hose.

How did the farmer fix his jeans?
- With a cabbage patch.

What do you get if you cross a dog with a daisy?
- A collil-flowerr.

Why did the grape stop in the middle of the road?
- Because he ran out of juice.

What kind of vegetable is jealous?
- A green bean.

Did you hear the joke about the peach?
- It's pitiful.

What's the coolest vegetable?
- A rad-lish.

What is a dancer's favorite kind of vegetable?
- Spin-acchi.

Why were the strawberries upset?
- Because they were in a jam.

Why was the tomato blushing?
- Because it saw the salad dressin'.

When do you go at red and stop at green?
- When eatin' a watermelon.

What kind of vegetable likes to look at animals?
- A zoo-chili.

Knock Knock
Who's there?
Beets!
Beets who?
Beets me!

Knock Knock
Who's there?
Pecan
Pecan who?
Pecan someone your own size.

Knock Knock
Who's there?
Can't
Can't who?
Cantaloupe with you tonight!
Spinach is probably the best known of the greens, but there are many others, including young dandelion greens!

Spinach contributes to healthy bones, eyes and teeth. Spinach is high in iron, Vitamin K and Vitamin C.

Some other greens are collard greens, kale and an assortment of Oriental greens. Swiss chard grows very well in Oklahoma as do mustard and beet greens.
Peaches and Pears

Many of the tribes located in Indian Territory were growing peaches well before Oklahoma statehood.

Most of the peaches grown in Oklahoma are consumed within the state and are hand harvested.

The fruit of a pear tree is a pome, juicier than the apple, and varying from apple-shaped to teardrop-shaped.

Pears are gathered from the trees before they are completely ripe and are allowed to ripen in storage.
Peppers love warm soil and cannot tolerate frost. Peppers thrive in a well drained, fertile soil that is well supplied with moisture.

Chilies can make foods safer by reducing harmful bacteria.

Although the jalapeno is one of the most well-known of the spicy peppers, the hottest pepper is the habanero chili pepper.

**Pecans**

The pecan tree is a member of the hickory family.

Today pecans are widely available throughout Oklahoma and Texas.

There are over 1,000 varieties of pecans, many named for Native American Indian tribes.
The radish is an edible root vegetable. Radishes are a common garden crop in the U.S., and the fast harvest cycle makes them a popular choice for children's gardens.

Strawberries are one of the most popular fruits in the US. They are the first fruit to ripen in the spring. Strawberries are eaten by 94 percent of Americans. They are the only fruit with their seeds on the outside.

Oklahomas’s state fruit is the strawberry!
American Indians shared many varieties of squash with the European settlers, who took the seeds back to their countries. Today, squash is grown all over the world. Summer squash is very low in calories and high in fiber.

Sweet Potatoes

A sweet potato is a root tuber, a fleshy root that stores food for a plant. Sweet potatoes are members of the morning glory family and native to the American tropics. They are not the same as yams, which are native to Africa and Asia.
Tomatoes

93% of American gardening households grow tomatoes.
According to the USDA there 25,000 tomato varieties.
The heaviest tomato on record weighed 7 pounds 12 ounces!

Farmers generally grow watermelon in rows. The rind of a watermelon is not as tough as it looks, so it is still handpicked.

Watermelon is 92% water. Early explorers used them as canteens.

Watermelon is the natural sports drink. It is rich in the electrolytes (sodium + potassium) that we lose when we sweat.
For more information contact:

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