

We All Eat Cranberries

Did you know cranberries float because they are hollow.

Cranberries are a fruit that grows in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin. We don't pop cranberries in our mouth like other berries because they are tart. Generally, we cook cranberries and sweeten them.

Cranberry plants are short shrubs that have wide sprawling roots. Instead of picking cranberries like we pick blackberries, they are harvested by flooding the fields, because of the size of the berries plus the volume of fruit that would need to picked.

Once they flood the fields, the growers have a machine that is nicknamed 'The Beater', which is elevated above the shrubs, so it rolls over the plants and the paddles beat the cranberries off the stalks. They are floated, gathered, and trucked away.

The most interesting thing is that the driver must know the field because each row grows in the direction of the machine. If the driver goes against the grain the shrubs will be torn up. Think about how a baseball field is mowed, it is the same principle.

Cranberries are synonymous to Thanksgiving. This time of year cans of cranberries are beginning to appear on the endcap shelves in grocery stores. There are the die-hard jellied people vs the whole berry only folks. Our family always had to buy both styles to keep us all happy. Don't forget there are fresh berries and bottled juices available.



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