

Fresh, healthy choices, Grown in Illinois.



Community Supported Agriculture (CSA):

A CSA is a way for farmers to sell shares of their harvest to members of the community. There are about 50 active CSAs in Illinois.

Processing:

With more than 950 food manufacturing companies, Illinois is well-equipped to turn the state's crops and livestock into food and industrial products. Food processing is the state's number-one manufacturing activity, adding almost \$13.4 billion annually to the value of Illinois' raw agricultural commodities.



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In Illinois, more than **64 vegetables** and **15 fruit and nut crops** are grown commercially on more than **100,000 acres**, leading to a sales volume of close to **\$400 million**.

Illinois produces two-thirds of the U.S. horseradish supply, resulting in ten-million dollars in annual income. Collinsville, Illinois is considered the "Horseradish Capital of the World."

The average American will consume enough vegetables in their lifetime to fill 16 pick-up trucks.

Illinois ranks among the top ten states in the production of specialty crops such as asparagus, cauliflower, fresh-cut herbs, green peas, lima beans, mustard greens and snap peas.

Illinois has more than **375 registered farmers markets**, the third highest in the nation.

Illinois is the top producer of pumpkins for the United States, with

- **11,000 acres of Jack O'Lantern pumpkins**
- **15,000 acres of processing pumpkins**
- **10,000 acres of other Cucurbits (a plant of the gourd family)**

Morton, Illinois is considered the "Pumpkin Capital of the World."

There are more than **500 pumpkin patches in Illinois**.

The bright orange color of pumpkins indicates it is full of an important antioxidant called beta-carotene. In humans, beta-carotene is converted to Vitamin A, which helps bones and cell development and promotes healthy eyesight.

Popcorn is the official Illinois snack food.

Popcorn is produced on **333 Illinois farms on 47,000 acres**, making the state the third largest grower of the product.

The GoldRush apple, a sweet-tart yellow apple, is the state fruit of Illinois.

Illinois Specialty Crop funding helped develop the Evercrisp, a new variety of apple.

There are **175 commercial vineyards** in Illinois **growing 1,066 acres of grapes**.

651,800 gallons of wine are produced each year in Illinois **by 105 commercial wineries**.

Illinois Specialty Growers Association (ISGA) is an umbrella association representing the Illinois Vegetable Growers Association (IVGA), Illinois State Horticulture Society (ISHS), Illinois Herb Association (IHA), and Illinois Irrigation Association (IIA). ISGA is an association that offers the opportunity to be a part of a growing specialty crop industry and promotes the production and sale of fresh fruit, vegetables, and herbs produced by local farmers.

– Statistics obtained from 2010 specialty crops survey, Illinois Department of Agriculture, and U of I Extension.