

## **CRANBERRIES – A WASHINGTON GROWN CROP**

Cranberries are almost 90% water.

Good, ripe cranberries will bounce. Bounceberry is another name for the cranberry.

There are several theories as to the origin of the name 'cranberry.' One is that the open flowers look like the head of a crane; another is that cranes like to these sour berries.

Cranberry juice was first made by American settlers in 1683.

The first cranberry sauce was marketed in 1912.

Only 5% of cranberries are sold fresh. The remaining 95% is processed into juice, sauce, dried, etc.

It takes about 200 cranberries to make one can of cranberry sauce.

Small pockets of air inside the berry cause the cranberry to bounce. It also causes the berries to float in water.

There are approximately 333 cranberries in a pound, 3333 cranberries in one gallon of juice, and 33,333 cranberries in a 100-pound barrel.

Cranberries have been grown in Washington State since 1883. They are grown in the coastal areas of Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties.

Cranberries are planted on upland sandy soils or on peat soils. Cranberries do not grow in water and prefer a well-drained soil. Water is required for irrigation, frost protection, and harvest.

Cranberries grow on vines, not bushes. Cranberry blossoms require pollination from bees to set fruit. Cranberries are a perennial wetland plant that can produce for 100 years or more.

After planting a new cranberry bog, the first harvest will be 3-5 years after planting. Peak production will occur in 5-7 years.

There are over 200 varieties of cranberries, however, only 10 varieties are commercially produced.

Washington cranberry producers annually harvest approximately 200,000 100-lb. barrels of cranberries. This is 5% of the nation's total crop. The value of the crop is \$10-\$12 million annually.

Receiving facilities for cranberries are located in Long Beach and Markham (near Aberdeen), WA. There is an Ocean Spray Processing Plant in Markham where juice is made. The processing plant recently added a drying facility to make "Craisins".