

### Agriculture Introduction:

Georgia's largest industry is agriculture, and it is important to educate young people about the commodities grown within the state. For the 2024 National Ag Week, Georgia is choosing to highlight pecans - a heart-healthy food with more a multitude of vitamins and minerals! Georgia is the nation's largest supplier of pecans, accounting for about 1/3 of U.S. pecan production. More information about agriculture in Georgia can be found from the Georgia Department of Agriculture, UGA Extension, commodity groups, and agriculture-related companies, such as Farm Bureau.

While this resource was initially intended for use during the 2024 National Ag Week, it can be used at any time!

### Kahoot Information:

Kahoot is a web-based interactive trivia game that could be hosted face-to-face or virtually. The game facilitator (4-H professional, volunteer, teacher, etc.) will need the capability to share the presentation screen (projector/screen, virtually with 'share screen' option). Participants will need a device (smart phone, tablet, laptop, etc.) to respond to the trivia questions. Depending on the device (and data package), Internet may/may not be needed.

The facilitator will use the link below to access the Kahoot game. After each question, facts about strawberries can be shared with participants.

Kahoot link: <https://create.kahoot.it/share/pecan-ag-commodity/3d1e2d7a-1861-43e7-aa23-b264b9c64e19>

This game could be used in various settings, including in-school club meetings, after-school activities, virtual game shows, STEM Night events, community festivals, etc.

### Facts to Use with Questions

#### Question 1:

The Pecan tree is native to some parts of the United States, typically the area known as the Lower Mississippi Valley. This region extends from Texas to Alabama and then north to Indiana and Illinois. Native American tribes like the Algonquin cherished the pecan. In fact, the word "pecan" comes from the Algonquin language, meaning "nut requiring a stone to crack."

#### Question 2:

George Washington planted pecans at his home called Mount Vernon in 1775 after receiving them from Philadelphia. Washington then sent pecans to Thomas Jefferson, who then planted them at



his home along Monticello in the 1790s. Washington was known to carry them in his coat pockets as a snack.

**Question 3:**

There are more than 500 varieties of pecans, but only a few are common. Varieties commonly planted in Georgia orchards include Cape Fear, Desirable, Elliott, Schley, Stuart, and Sumner.

**Question 4**

Pecans grow on trees! They are a part of the hickory family. The seed of the pecan tree is actually an edible nut. The pecan is the state nut of Alabama, Arkansas, California, Texas and Louisiana, and is also the state tree of Texas.

**Question 5**

Pecans contain more than 19 vitamins and minerals, including vitamin A, vitamin E, folic acid, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, and zinc. Pecans are considered heart-healthy as they have antioxidants and unsaturated (or “good”) fat. They also contain no cholesterol and no trans fat.

**Question 6:**

An acre of pecan trees that are irrigated and well maintained can produce up to 1000 lbs of pecans in a single year! It’s important for pecan farmers to test their soil regularly, add amendments and fertilizers, and water the trees properly.

**Question 7:**

The United States produces nearly 80% of the world's pecans. In 2022, the United States grew 409,000 acres of pecans and harvested 278 million pounds. Georgia is the nation's largest supplier of pecans!

**Question 8:**

Pecan trees have a lifespan of around 300 years. Some may only live 75 years but others may live well over 300 years. The tree can reach 75-100 feet tall!

**Question 9:**

Pecans can become rancid or spoiled if not stored properly. This is due to the high oil content within the pecan. The oils in pecans can even absorb flavors or smells from other items, so storing them in airtight containers is best. At room temperature, pecans will keep for about 3 months, 6-9 months in the refrigerator, and for many years in the freezer.

**Question 10:**

Georgia produces around 100 million pounds of pecans per year. If we think back to question 7, this would mean Georgia produces about 30% of all pecans in the United States and almost 38% of all the pecans in the world.

**Questions about these resources can be directed to:**

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