

# FARM FRESH HARVEST OF THE MONTH



## GEOGRAPHIC LOCATOR

Pears are Oregon's largest tree fruit crop. In 2004, the Hood River, Jackson, Wasco, Josephine, and Marion counties grew 265,801 tons of pears. The Harvest of the Month pear is the Red Anjou. The pear farmer is Gary from Walter Wells & Sons in Hood River.

## PEAR VARIETIES

Yellow Bartlett, Red Bartlett, Green and Red Anjou, Bosc-Brown, Comise, Concorde, Seckel, and Forelle.

## PEAR FACTS

- Pears are similar to apples and grow on medium sized trees. They taste sweet and have a grainy texture.
- Pear trees are planted in the spring. Pears are harvested in the fall. In the winter the branches of the trees are trimmed to help the tree grow good fruit.
- Most pear trees are deciduous, meaning they lose their leaves in the winter. A few Asian varieties are evergreen and don't lose their leaves.
- Pear blossoms are white, similar to apple blossoms, and they have 5 petals.
- The Chinese word li means both "pear" and "separation." For this reason, tradition says that pears should not be shared between friends who want to remain friends.
- Settlers brought pear trees to Oregon and Washington in the 1800s. Pears thrive in the mild climate and rich volcanic soil of the Pacific Northwest.
- Oregon grows enough pears to supply every person in the state with about 294 pears each year—how many pears a day is that? (Hint: there are just over 3.7 million people in Oregon)
- Pears are Oregon's state fruit and Medford, Oregon is home to some of the oldest pear orchards in the USA.
- Pears are high in vitamin C. They keep your body healthy and able to heal cuts and bruises easily. They are high in dietary fiber and keep your intestines running smoothly.



## ACTIVITY

### Poetic Pears

FOR GRADES K-2

#### Did you know?

The part of the plant we eat is the fruit! The fruit holds the seeds of the plant, and the seeds are what create new plants. The wood is used for furniture and smoking foods too.

Bring to class 2-5 different pear varieties. Display the pears and have students look at the differences in the pears. Examine the seeds inside the pear.

- 1) Sample the pears and describe the differences in smell, taste, texture and appearance.
- 2) Write a collaborative poem about pears and pear trees.