

AGRI CULTURE is everywhere!

SPECIALTY AGRICULTURE

Farmers grow many things in addition to traditional crops and livestock. Fruits, nuts, timber and vegetables are important agricultural products grown in Missouri.

Fruits

Many fruit and nut trees are grown in Missouri. When groups of trees are planted together for food production it is called an orchard. Peach orchards are found in Missouri, primarily in the south and central parts of the state. Peaches grow best in areas where the temperature is warmer. Missouri can have harsh winters and late spring frosts which can destroy the peach crop.



Peach trees grow well in a variety of soil types. For the trees to grow best, the soil should be well-drained to keep the roots from standing in water.

Apples are grown in every state in the continental United States. Apples are harvested in late summer and early fall. Because we have storage that can keep the apples the right temperature, apples are enjoyed all year.



Apples, peaches, walnuts and pecans are all produced from the flower of the plant.

ACTIVITY



Using one day of the school lunch menu, determine which foods were pollinated by bees or other pollinators.

HINT: Don't forget that animals used for meat also eat food that has been pollinated.

Some farmers grow one or more of these specialty crops in addition to other crops or livestock.



THE HONEY BEE LIFE CYCLE



Egg Larva Pupa Honeybee

A queen bee lays an egg in a tiny cell. Next, the egg hatches. The larva looks like a worm. The larva grows into a pupa, or baby honeybee and when fully grown, the honeybee hatches from its cell ready for duty in the colony where a large number of bees live and work.

Male bees are called drones. Their job is to take care of the queen bee. Female bees are called worker bees. They feed the baby bees, clean the hive, groom the queen bee and gather nectar and water.

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bees

Bees are very important to Missouri farmers. Nuts, fruits and vegetables need bees to pollinate the plant so it will give us food.

Pollination is the transfer of pollen from an anther, male part of a flower, to the stigma, female part of the plant. Pollen is the fertilizing element of flowering plants, consisting of fine, powdery, yellowish grains or spores, sometimes in masses. Pollination makes the seeds that grow into new plants.

Some plants can self-pollinate, or pollinate themselves. Examples of self-pollinating vegetables are lettuce, cabbage, beets and carrots. Some plants that need pollination are cucumbers, pumpkins and melons.



A manager of forested land for economic and conservation purposes is called a **Forester**.

An **Arborist** specializes in keeping trees healthy, planting trees or landscaping.

Sawmill Operators oversee the processing of trees.