

# 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.

### Nuts

The eastern black walnut is the official state tree nut in Missouri. Missouri is the top producer of black walnuts, which are used in many baked foods or can be eaten raw. *Hammons Products Co.* of Stockton, Mo., is known as the Black Walnut Capital of the World and largest commercial buyer/seller of black walnuts.

Black walnut trees grow throughout Missouri. The nuts are harvested in the fall. The walnut is covered with a green, rounded outer covering called a hull. It's removed by a hulling machine so the nut can be cracked to get to the kernel we eat. The outer coating on walnuts that protects the nut meat is called the shell. The shells can be ground into a powder and used for many purposes such as cleaning equipment. Mature trees can also be harvested for timber.



Another nut tree common in Missouri is the pecan. Pecan trees grow best in the moist bottomland near rivers. Pecans are harvested in the fall. Pecans are cylinder-shaped nuts that can be cracked and used in cakes, pies and other foods.



### Farmers' Markets

Missouri has more than 200 farmers' markets. Farmers grow vegetables and fruits and sell them at these markets. Some farmers sell meat and eggs too. Families can purchase local products to feed their families and also purchase plants.



### Timber

Missouri has more than 14 million acres of trees, called forests. That's 32 percent of the 44.7 million total acres in our state. Most of these trees are hickories and red and white oaks.



Trees are used for lumber, paper, rayon, charcoal and firewood. Bark, the rough outer coating of trees, can be used to make cork, dyes, mulch and medicines. The sap, juice from some tree varieties, is used to make paint thinner, rubber and sugar.

Newspapers are printed on newsprint, an uncoated lightweight paper made of ground wood pulp. Today, more than 72 percent of all old newspapers in the United States are recovered and recycled and are the largest component by weight and volume of curbside recycling programs. The average amount of recycled-fiber content in newsprint used by U.S. newspapers is almost 30 percent. Old newspapers also are recycled into cellulose insulation materials, cereal boxes, egg cartons, grocery bags, pencil barrels, tissue paper and more.



A **Botanist** (Plant Scientist) studies plants, plant growth and environmental interactions.

**Horticulturists** help farmers plant the right crop and identify new plants.

