

# The Garden State On My Plate

## *A lesson from the New Jersey Agricultural Society Learning Through Gardening Program*

**Overview:** New Jersey may be the most densely populated state in the country, but it has a strong agricultural heritage, and farming remains its third largest industry. There's a reasons it's called the Garden State. New Jersey ranks third for cranberry production, fourth in peach production, and fifth in blueberry production in the United States. This lesson gives students an overview of New Jersey farming and highlights the state's 10 biggest crops by market value. As an added bonus, the lesson also reviews why children should eat fruits and vegetables, grown in New Jersey or anywhere.



**Objective:** The student will be able to:

- Name some major crops grown in New Jersey.
- Explain why agriculture is important to people who live in New Jersey.
- Explain why it is important to eat fruits and vegetables every day.

**Grades:** K-5

**Materials:** The New Jersey Agricultural Society's Learning Through Gardening power point presentation "The Garden State On My Plate," which can be found at [www.njagsociety.org](http://www.njagsociety.org), Programs, Learning Through Gardening, Teacher Toolbox.

**Procedure:**

The teacher asks children what agriculture is. The teacher asks children if there are any farms in New Jersey, and if they have ever seen or visited a farm in New Jersey. Students discuss why farms are important. The teacher asks students what are some major crops grown in New Jersey.

Teacher show and discusses power point presentation "The Garden State On My Plate."

## Evaluation:

Students can answer the question, "Can you name some fruits and vegetables that are grown in New Jersey?"

Students write a paragraph about farming in New Jersey.

Students write a paragraph about the benefits of eating fruits and vegetables.

## Extension:

Students do further research about agriculture in New Jersey.

Students identify farms near their school and find out what is grown there.

