

Cranberry Impact

COMMERCIAL FARMING BEGAN ON CAPE COD IN 1816



Left behind by melting glaciers, used by Indigenous peoples, and first commercially cultivated by Revolutionary War veteran Captain Henry Hall in Dennis, cranberries have an important and rich history in southeastern Massachusetts. As the oldest and second-largest growing region in the U.S., Massachusetts celebrates cranberry as the official state color, fruit and juice drink.

60,000+ ACRES OF OPEN SPACE PROTECTED BY BOGS



A healthy cranberry industry means more open space, as every acre of active cranberry bog needs 3-5 acres of support land. This undeveloped space provides a unique environment for native plants and animals, including threatened and endangered species.

\$1.7 BILLION & 6,392 JOBS TIED TO MA CRANBERRY



With more than 11,500 acres harvested, cranberries are the Commonwealth's No. 1 food crop. This industry's economic contribution is important to the overall strength of Massachusetts' economy and vital to dozens of communities and non-farm businesses as a result of the economic multiplier impact.

A SUPERFRUIT WITH UNIQUE HEALTH BENEFITS



Fat, sodium and cholesterol free, cranberries contain antioxidants and the flavanol proanthocyanidin (PACs), responsible for anti-adhesive properties not found in other fruits and vegetables. Studies have shown cranberry's positive impact on oral, heart, urinary tract, and gut health.

learn more at cranberries.org

Hello,
Neighbor



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Hello, Neighbor

What to expect when living near a cranberry bog



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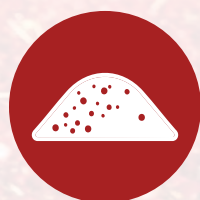


What's Growing On? Sights & Sounds on the Cranberry Bog



Heavy equipment is used during normal agricultural practices for any farm. Massachusetts bogs, some hundreds of years old, may require renovation with heavy equipment. Large trucks are also used to transport berries to receiving stations during harvest.

Farmers adhere to regulations and standards set forth in the MA Wetlands Protection Act and the federal Clean Water Act.



Sand is the cranberry plant's primary growing medium. As part of normal bog management, growers may apply 1/2 - 2" of sand on the surface of producing bogs at 2-5 year intervals to promote growth, improve productivity, suppress disease, and reduce insect populations.

To remain competitive in a challenging marketplace, Massachusetts cranberry growers may renovate underperforming bogs. Renovation involves scraping off existing vines and laying down a fresh layer of at least 6" of sand. Renovated bogs have improved drainage, upgraded irrigation, and hybrid vines needing less water.



Cranberry growers use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) - a science-based approach to managing pests that combines biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health, and environmental risks. IPM reduces, but does not eliminate, the use of pesticides to control or prevent serious damage caused by various insects and diseases.

Through training cranberry growers are able to obtain pesticide licenses from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. Most pesticides are applied at night or early morning, never in the presence of wind, and not before or after heavy rain. To supply nutrients needed for growth, fertilizers are applied to cranberry bogs in spring and summer via drones, helicopters, irrigation, rotary spreaders, or motorized vehicles.

Our growers follow science-based Best Management Practices developed by the UMass Cranberry Station in East Wareham.



Helicopters are often used to work the bogs in lieu of driving heavy equipment on the sensitive vines. Helicopters can administer fertilizers; haul off heavy ditch mud; and transport dry-harvested berries.



Cranberry flowers do not self-fertilize, so growers rely on native pollinators and migratory bees to move pollen from one flower to another. Rented bees are introduced in June and remain until mid-July.

Chemical use on farms is closely monitored and regulated by federal and state agencies with specific allowances, rates, and timing of application, among other restrictions.



Cranberry vines need ~1 inch of water/week during the growing season. Growers also use water to protect from damaging frost, extreme heat or drought. Bogs are flooded during harvest in the fall and to protect vines and allow for sand spreading in the winter. Land and water conservation is vitally important to cranberry growers. As such, growers follow comprehensive conservation farm plans and utilize technology to preserve resources and reduce their carbon footprint. Many growers use tailwater recovery ponds to create a closed-loop system that captures and reuses water from the bog.