

# Pears

## 1. Why do our bodies need potassium?

The mineral potassium is an important electrolyte needed for proper heart, nerve and muscle function. It also helps regulate water and electrolyte levels as well as helps maintain carbohydrate and protein metabolism.

## 2. Define what a bud sport is.

A bud sport is a tree limb that naturally transforms and develops a different fruit variety than that of the original tree.

## 3. Research and describe the technique called grafting that is used to grow and cultivate pears. What other fruits use the grafting technique?

When you plant the seed from a fruit, the tree that grows may not produce fruit or it may not be edible. The best way to produce fruit is to grow seedlings from the seed and then attach materials from trees that are known to be good producers. Budding or grafting can also be used to change varieties to mature citrus or avocado trees.

## 4. Label the parts of the pear.

(Refer to *Pear Botanical Image* and diagram on page two of newsletter.) Stem, shoulder, core, flesh, calyx, skin, seed.

## 5. Map the geographical regions in California where pears are grown. What are the top three pear-producing counties regions in California? When do these regions harvest pears? What is the volume of pears produced?

Sacramento/San Joaquin, Upper Sacramento Valley, Mendocino, Lake and El Dorado. The Sacramento and San Joaquin orchards harvest July 7-31. Lake, El Dorado and Mendocino counties harvest August 1-30. California produces

over 300,000 tons of pears each year and adds \$91,594 to its economy.

**6. Determine what percentage of the pears harvested in CA goes into processed foods and juices and how much is available to be sold whole/fresh?**

Seventy percent (70%) becomes canned, juice, dried or used in baby products and 30% is sold as fresh.

Sources:

[www.cfaitc.org/commodity.php](http://www.cfaitc.org/commodity.php)

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8001.pdf>

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