

State of Mississippi

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

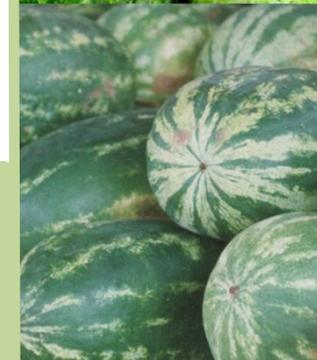
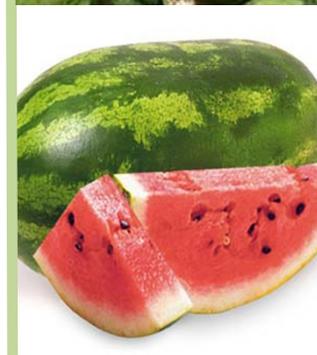
Agriculture Fact Sheet Watermelons 2015



- In 2015, Mississippi harvested 1800 acres of watermelons.
- Most popular varieties produced are Jubilee, All-Sweet and Sangria.
- The average size melon produced weighs 18 to 22 pounds.
- Approximately 25 counties in Mississippi are significant producers of watermelon.
- Mize, Mississippi, in Smith County, is the location for the Mississippi Watermelon Festival held each year.
- The majority of watermelons grown in Mississippi are planted in the southeast quarter of the state.

- One pound of watermelon supplies only 58 calories of energy and is considered a fair source of vitamin C and vitamin A.
- The average serving of watermelon is 2 pounds per person.
- Watermelons should be handled with care. Dropping, rolling or squeezing can injure the flesh.
- Green or overripe melons do not improve in transit.
- It takes a better-than-average watermelon “thumper” to judge the ripeness of a melon with accuracy. A dull thump is supposed to indicate that the melon is ripe, but it may also mean it’s over-ripe. Plugging and cutting are better tests, but if that can’t be done, look for these characteristics:
 - A melon that is firm and symmetrical
 - Appearance which is fresh and attractive
 - A bloom over the surface of the rind giving it a velvety look
- An important selling point for watermelons is that they project a sweet, juicy and refreshingly cool image.

Source: Mississippi State University & USDA



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