



Cantaloupe

Cantaloupes were cultivated in Egypt dating as far back to Biblical times, about 2400 BC. Egyptian paintings dating back to that period include fruits that are identified as melons.

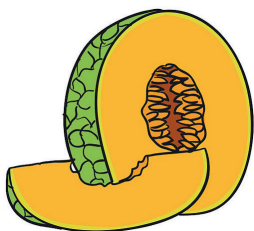
Cantaloupes were introduced to the New World on Columbus' second voyage in 1493 when he took melon seeds to Haiti. One of his journal entries dated 1494, records that he found cantaloupes growing in the Galapagos from a planting only two months prior. The Indians of Central and South America were delighted to discover a new fruit and eagerly adopted cantaloupes into their cultivated gardens.

By the 1600's cantaloupes were grown in North America from Florida to New England. It was not until after the Civil War that cantaloupes became a major crop in United States. Yet, sometime during the 16th century, melon seeds from Armenia were planted in the Papal gardens of Cantalupo, a city near Tivoli close to Rome.



Fun Facts

- They are also known as MUSKMELON (in the USA) or ROCKMELON (in Australia)
- Belongs to the pumpkin family
- The name comes from Cantalupo, an Italian town famous for the cantaloupe cultivation at the beginning of the 18th century.
- California grows 70% of the U.S. crop, with Texas and Arizona second and third in production. Supplies from Central America and Mexico help to fill out the winter month's crop.
- When choosing cantaloupe, do not pick one with the stem attached; it is a sign of immaturity. Look for melons with a yellowish tint to the rind and a melon smell. The cantaloupe should yield to soft pressure when it is ripe.
- They are the most popular melon in the United States!

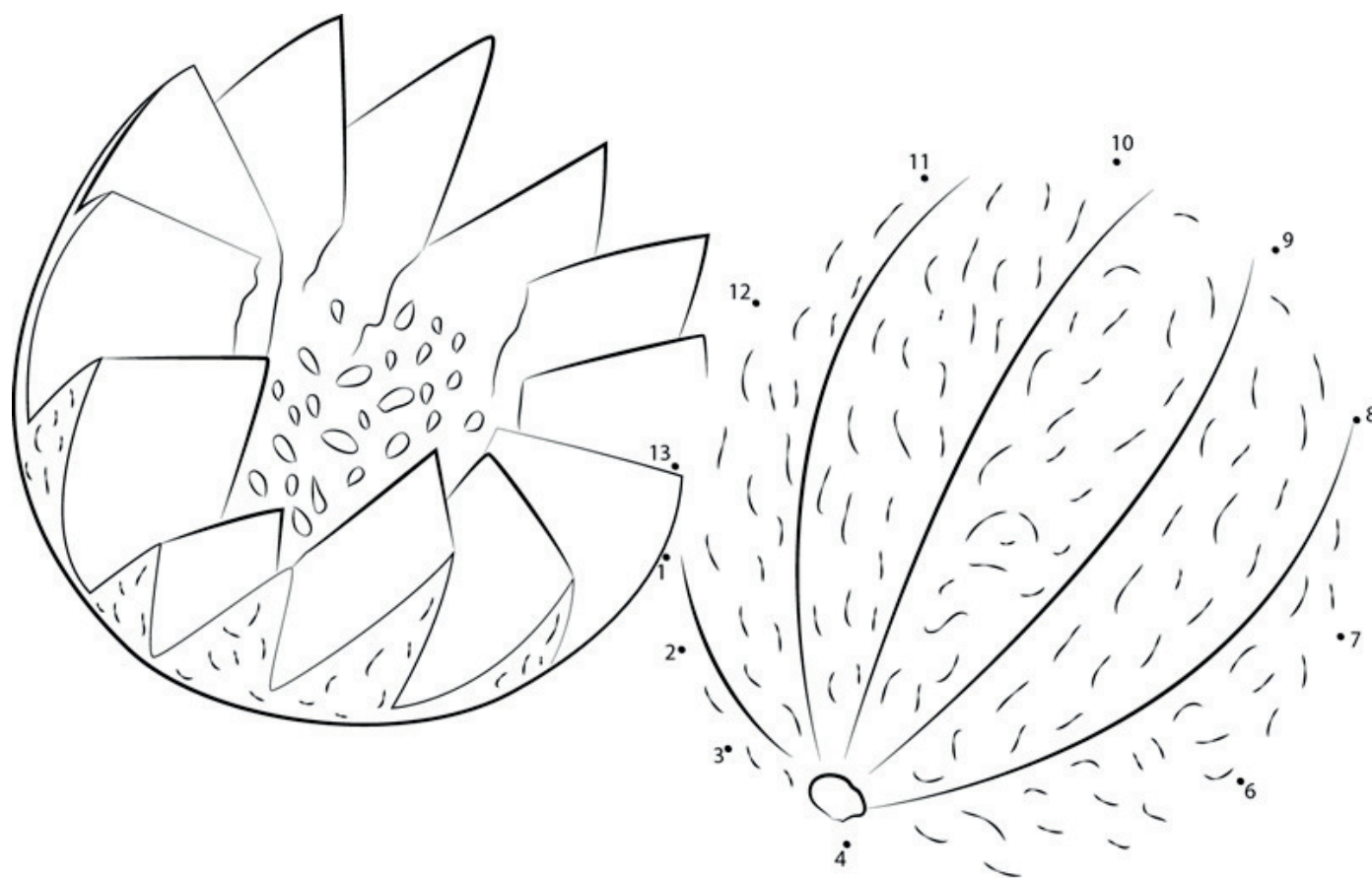


**Delicious
Cantaloupe
Recipes!**

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What do you call a sad dog
that likes cantaloupe?
A melon collie.



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