



Colorado Department of Agriculture
Markets Division
700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-8000 USA

Phone: (303) 239-4114
Fax: (303) 239-4125
E-mail: markets@ag.state.co.us

www.coloradoagriculture.com

Colorado Organics

Colorado's agricultural industry has been a leader in the growing organic industry. The Colorado Department of Agriculture was the first state agency to develop and implement state organic certification of our farms. Colorado is also home to the category leaders for organic milk, herbal teas, soy milk and soy products, natural meats and organic food processing. Our farmers include the largest independent organic vegetable farms, the leading growers of organic millet and many grain products. Colorado is in the top five states in the U.S. for organic acreage in vegetable production, fruit production, organic pasture and grains.

Colorado's winters and dry climate are ideal for organic production. Our soils are cleansed each year with the winter freeze and our dry climate provides direct control of moisture through irrigation and excellent dryland crops.

Colorado is also a center for the industry with retailers and trade industry support groups. The leading trade magazines, trade shows and advertising and promotion companies call Colorado home.

Farmers' Markets and On-Farm Sales

Colorado's statewide farmers' markets provide Colorado consumers with direct access to farmer's fruits and vegetables. Colorado farmers' markets have become a center for summer activity in many communities. Other farmers have established on-farm sales to connect the grower directly to the consumer. Every year the CDA produces a guide to the farmers' markets and a listing of all direct sales opportunities. The guide is available in printed and Internet versions at the Colorado Department of Agriculture web site: www.coloradoagriculture.com.

Vegetables

Colorado has a great climate for growing a wide range of vegetables. With planting beginning in April, our harvests begin in May and continue through first frost, often in late October.

Our organic vegetables are shipped throughout the U.S., as well as to the growing world market. Colorado organic farmers are selling direct to the consumer, through Colorado's farmers' markets and across the U.S. and world markets. Some growers are producing vegetables in Colorado specifically for export. Colorado kabocha is well known in Japan, though the average consumer in Colorado couldn't identify the vegetable.

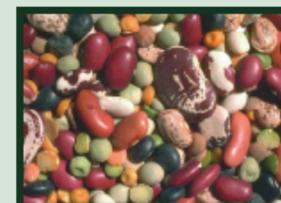


Fruits

Increasingly, Colorado's fruit growers are turning to organic production as a means to differentiate their products from other suppliers. Colorado's cherries are available beginning in June, followed by peaches and pears in August. Our apple harvest begins in late August and continues through September.

Grains

Colorado grain farmers are known for hard red winter wheat, millet and corn. Organic beans are also grown in Colorado. Colorado millet is exported world-wide, and our organic sunflowers also travel the world.



Meat

The Colorado livestock industry is responding to consumer interest in natural and organic meats. Colorado has the most certified organic pastureland in the U.S. Farmers and ranchers are identifying organic production as an important option in differentiating their meat.

Processed Foods

Colorado's food processors are world leaders in organic processed foods. Top U.S. and global brands call Colorado home. Processing plants across the state make teas, juices, soy foods, dairy products, sauces and canned foods of every variation. Colorado is the headquarters for the largest U.S. organic dairy. Colorado companies process foods using their own brand, as well as providing private label processing of food products so companies across America can have their products produced in Colorado.



Industry Center and Support Organizations

The organic food industry is more than farmers growing organic products and food processors marketing organic foods. Colorado is home for leading trade magazines, trade show organizers and advertising and marketing firms that focus on this rapidly growing organic sector of the U.S. food industry.