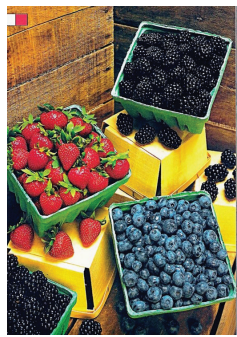


1. Olympic Mountains

Washington is the only state in the “lower 48” with a rainforest. The Olympic Peninsula receives more than 180 inches of precipitation annually. This region is heavily forested and is noted for its forest products (referred to as Western Greens) like salal, as well as mushrooms, conifer cones and boughs. Salal grows naturally in the forests near Bremerton and is gathered and shipped (along with other Washington flowers) to florists all around the country to use as a filler in flower arrangements.



2. Willapa Hills



Christmas trees, berries, and aquaculture can all be found in the Willapa Region. Christmas trees grow quickly in this climate. Most trees are planted and cared for in a plantation setting as opposed to being harvested from the forest. Aquaculture is a tasty part of Washington agriculture. Washington state raises several varieties of shellfish in the tidal flats and waters of the protected bays and Puget Sound (oysters, butter clams, razor clams, geoducks, and mussels). Washington state is the largest producer of hatchery-reared and farmed shellfish in the U.S. Washington is one of five states in the nation raising cranberries. Blueberries, cranberries, and strawberries are fruits native to the US.

3. Puget Sound Lowlands



In spite of the pressure of population and the resulting development, the Puget Sound lowlands continue to be an important part of Washington agriculture, producing unique and useful products. Here, there is a plain with very fertile soil that has been washed from the surrounding mountains over eons. Because the Puget Sound region is isolated from large commercial vegetable production areas, seed crops can be raised with less concern about cross-pollination and plant diseases. The Skagit Valley is noted for the tulips and daffodils grown there. Attending the tulip festival in April is always a delight.

4. Cascade Mountains

The volcanoes of the Cascades have helped create the fertile soil of our state with layers and layers of ash deposits. Apples and other fruit are grown in the foothills of the Cascades. The heavily forested mountains are a source of timber. Cattle are produced throughout the state, but the wide open areas on the east side of the state are suited for larger operations. Timothy (a type of grass) hay is grown around Ellensburg for export as well as local use.



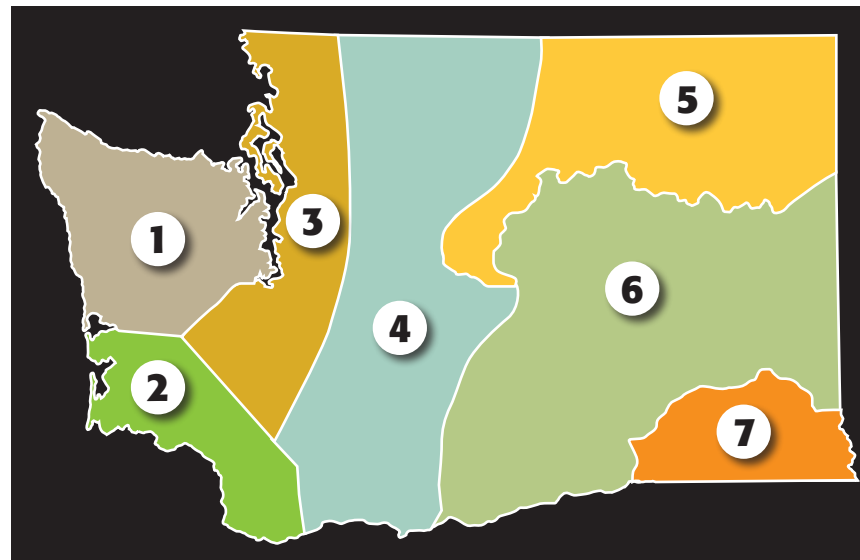
5. Okanogan Highlands

Apples are still king in Washington. The majority of apples in Washington are grown along rivers – this can be done by terracing the ground that slopes toward the stream. Water is needed for irrigation, but the existence of micro-climates around rivers and lakes probably more accurately explains the locations of the best fruit-growing. Micro-climates allow for the growing of peaches, pears, plums, apricots, etc. These fruits are less tolerant to cold temperatures and benefit from the advantage of a micro-climate (warmer temperatures in the winter and cooler temperatures in the summer). Cattle are able to graze land that is too steep, or too rocky, to grow crops. They can convert grass into high quality protein (meat) for human diets.

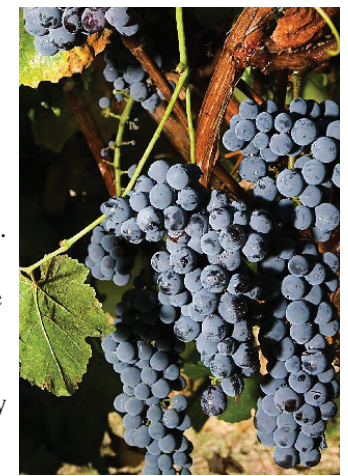


6. Columbia Basin

The Great Floods abrading the basalt plateaus gave us the topography of the Columbia Basin region. Much of the



Central Columbia Basin receives less than 10 inches of rainfall and it is considered a desert. Although sage and rabbit brush are the natural vegetation in this low rainfall area, this is actually some of the most productive land in our nation. This is made possible by irrigation. Irrigation allows for the production of hundreds of crops in the Columbia Basin including potatoes, alfalfa hay, sweet corn, concord grapes, onions, cherries and mint.



7. Blue Mountain Region

Important crops in this region include wheat and Walla Walla sweet onions, which are a high water content, low sulfur variety that are harvested around the fourth of July and are marketed in the summer months. Asparagus has been important to the region. However, as a labor-intensive crop, it has been affected by trade preference agreements. In 1990, Washington harvested 110 million pounds of asparagus. Ten years later, in 2010, only 17 million pounds were harvested. Washington asparagus acreage has declined from 16,000 acres in 2003 to only 4,700 acres in 2012. And of course, wine grapes flourish in this region. Lewiston/Clarkston is the most inland seaport on the Snake River system.

