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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

**2003-04**

(session year)

**Assembly**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on Government Operations and  
Spending Limitations...**

### **COMMITTEE NOTICES ...**

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

### **INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL**

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)  
(**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)  
(**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

## Assembly

### Record of Committee Proceedings

#### **Committee on Government Operations and Spending Limitations**

##### **Assembly Bill 679**

Relating to: designating the cranberry as the Wisconsin state fruit.

By Representatives Kerkman, M. Williams, Vruwink, Albers, Freese, Hines, Kreibich, Ladwig, J. Lehman, Lothian, McCormick, D. Meyer, Molepske, Musser, Owens, Pettis, Schneider and Seratti; cosponsored by Senators Brown, Breske, Lassa, Schultz and Zien.

November 20, 2003 Referred to Committee on Government Operations and Spending Limitations.

January 28, 2004 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (6) Representatives F. Lasee, Loeffelholz, Musser, Weber, Zepnick and Wasserman.

Absent: (0) None.

##### Appearances For

- James Peterson, Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.
- June Potter, Warrens Cranberry Festival
- Brooke Murdoch, Warrens Cranberry Festival
- Jenni Armstrong, Warrens Cranberry Festival
- Hannah Vick, Sen. Ron Brown
- Rep. Samantha Kerkman, 66th Assembly District
- Kyle Basteam, Trevor Grade School
- Eric Adler, Trevor Grade School
- Lauren Skalecki, Trevor Grade School

Miranda Elbina, Trevor Grade School

Tom Lochner, Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association

##### Appearances Against

None.

##### Appearances for Information Only

None.

##### Registrations For

Tom Steiner, Trevor Grade School

Janice Sielski, Trevor Grade School

Registrations Against

None.

February 11, 2004

**EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (6) Representatives F. Lasee, Loeffelholz, Musser, Weber,  
Zepnick and Wasserman.

Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Representative Musser, seconded by Representative Weber that  
**Assembly Bill 679** be recommended for passage.

Ayes: (6) Representatives F. Lasee, Loeffelholz, Musser,  
Weber, Zepnick and Wasserman.

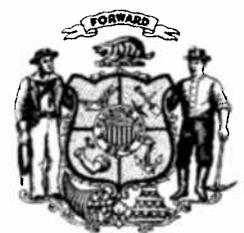
Noes: (0) None.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 6, Noes 0

Lance Burri  
Committee Clerk



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





AB 679 Testimony  
January 28, 2004

Chairman Lasee and members of the Committee on Government Operations and Spending Limits, thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 679, establishing the cranberry as Wisconsin's state fruit. You may ask why Wisconsin needs another state symbol, and why the cranberry? In Wisconsin, the cranberry is more than a fruit; it's also a key industry and way of life for many of our residents.

Consider these facts: Wisconsin leads the nation in cranberry farming and produces more than half of all cranberries consumed in the United States each year. In fact, cranberries are Wisconsin's number one fruit crop. Many are sold fresh, but most are sold for processing into cranberry products.

Cranberries are an important part of Wisconsin's economy, especially in the 31<sup>st</sup> Senate District that I represent. Two-thirds of all Wisconsin cranberries are grown in acreage located in the triangle between Tomah, Black River Falls and Wisconsin Rapids. The University of Wisconsin-Madison's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences estimated that in 1995, the cranberry industry was responsible for over 3,300 production jobs and another 1,000 handling and processing jobs. This employment contributed over \$50 million in personal income to the state's economy and added another \$60 million in secondary effects. According to the UW, the total value cranberry production and processing added to Wisconsin's economy was estimated at \$173 million, and total industry output estimated at \$334 million.

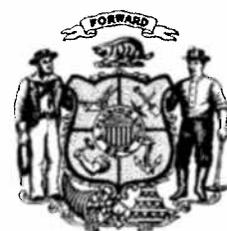
Beyond economic benefits, land used in cranberry production also provides valuable habitat area for certain plant and animal species. Cranberry production occupies over 180,000 acres in Wisconsin, including 18,000 acres of marshes and the rest 'support' land including wetlands, woodlands and uplands. Support land provides refuge for plants and wildlife and can be home to rare and endangered species including eagles, cranes, swans, loons, wolf and other animals.

Cranberries are a low-calorie, fiber-rich fruit that offer several important health benefits including preventing urinary tract infections and possibly heart disease, some cancers and infections. The National Kidney Foundation recommends drinking a glass of cranberry juice each day to maintain good kidney health.

As you can see, the cranberry is more than just a fruit – it's an important part of Wisconsin's economy and a way of life for many people throughout the state, especially in West-Central Wisconsin. I hope that you will honor this Wisconsin institution by voting in favor of AB 679 to recognize the cranberry as Wisconsin's official state fruit. Thank you for your consideration.



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





FEB 09 2004

## Trevor Grade School District

26325 Wilmot Road • Trevor, Wisconsin 53179  
Phone: 262-862-2366 • Fax: 262-862-8228 • [trevor@trevor.k12.wi.us](mailto:trevor@trevor.k12.wi.us)

Dr. Allan Lindstrom  
Superintendent

Ted J. Gavlin  
Principal

February 6, 2004

Representative Frank G. Lasee  
Room 105 West  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison WI 53708

Dear Representative Lasee,

I would like to thank you for scheduling a hearing on Assembly Bill 679 to establish the cranberry as the state fruit. While I believe that the cranberry is deserving of state recognition on its own merit, there is another ancillary factor to consider about this bill that did not present itself in testimony.

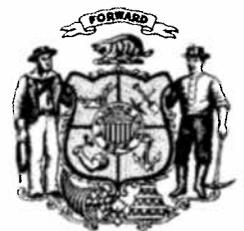
Trevor Grade School goes to great lengths to bring real life relevance to the lessons we teach. Thank you for providing our students an opportunity to use what they have learned in a meaningful way. These students are learning more about the legislative process through this bill than would otherwise be possible and a major Wisconsin industry may benefit from their hard work. I hope that you will please consider this as you decide the fate of proposed Assembly Bill 679.

Thank you,

Tom Steiner  
Vice-President  
School Board  
Trevor Grade School District  
26325 Wilmot Road  
Trevor WI. 53179



# WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





State Representative

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## **Samantha J. Kerkman**

*Testimony of Representative Samantha Kerkman*

*Assembly Bill 679*

*Relating to: designating the cranberry as the Wisconsin State Fruit*

Thank you Chairman Lasee and members of the Government Operations and Spending Limitations Committee for taking the time to consider Assembly Bill 679.

Assembly Bill 679 was drafted based on a petition my office received in 2003 from a fourth grade class at Trevor Grade School in Trevor, Wisconsin. Four students from that class, Miranda, Lauren, Eric and Kyle, join me today, as well as Social Studies teacher Janice Sielski and school board member Tom Steiner. The decision to select the cranberry as the state fruit was not taken lightly by the students. In fact, when they first contacted me they were considering the cherry for this symbol. After I asked them why, I received another petition with 5 bullet points as to their reasoning behind changing to the cranberry. I have attached a copy of the petition to my testimony for you to review. As you can see, the students carefully researched the cranberry and found valuable information to back up their beliefs.

Since receiving the petition, I also researched the issue. This fall I visited a cranberry bog, Ocean Spray, and met with the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association. After examining the idea, I agree that the cranberry is the obvious choice for a state fruit. According to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's Agricultural Statistics Service, we are number one among all states in production, producing 56.4% of the nation's cranberries. This is a staggering number that represents a general trend of our state producing more than half of the nation's cranberries.

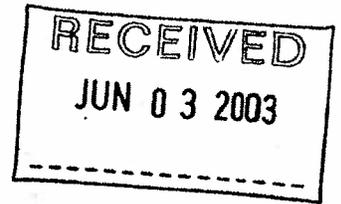
When Wisconsin is a leader it is only appropriate that we acknowledge our achievements. As the leader in the nation in cranberries, it is time we recognize it as our state fruit.

At this time I would like to turn it over to the students to provide their testimony.

05/29/03

Dear Samantha Kerkman,

Fourth Grade  
Trevor Grade School  
26325 Guilmet Rd  
Trevor WI 53179



We would like to thank you for writing to our class about the state fruit. After studying more on Wisconsin History we have decided that we should make the Cranberry our State Fruit. Here are the reasons for our new decision.

1. The Cranberry is native to Wisconsin.
2. Some of the cranberry marshes are over 100 years old.
3. Cranberries contain vitamin C, which is a vitamin to help fight disease.
4. Cranberries have long been Wisconsin's #1 fruit crop. Wisconsin families have passed down the cranberry growing tradition since the mid 1800s.
5. The early settlers gave the cranberry its modern name. To them, the pink cranberry blossoms resembled the heads of cranes; therefore the word "craneberry," later contracted to "cranberry."

Giving the above information the following students are in support of naming the Cranberry our State Fruit.

Sincerely, The Fourth Grade Classes,  
Trevor Grade School, Trevor WI 53179

- 1 Kyle Bastian
- 2
- 3 Schyles Braakman
- 4 <sup>Jaythan Bjeski</sup> Jaythan Bjeski
- 5 Bern Chileski
- 6 Kyle C. Lyton
- 7
- 8 Miranda Elkins
- 9
- 10 Eric Dolor
- 11 Harman Jensen
- 12 <sup>Kyle M. P. P.</sup> Kevin
- 13 Eric Sillbom
- 14 James Mohr
- 15 Anthony Muloostan
- 16 Jeremy R. O'Zison
- 17 Heaven Moore
- 18 Lauren Skaficki
- 19 Robert Smolka
- 20 Zach Ticha
- 21 Justin Watson
- 22 Bryanna Wunburn

Mrs. Donaldson

23 Mrs. Rebecca Kenney

24 Jenna Pigney

25 Sara Morris

26 Curtis Bull

27 James Carr

28 Melissa Deza

29 Jody DeSantolo

30 Cassandra Pearson

31 Jessica L. Ciblar

32 Hannah R. Green

33 Samuel R. Phillip

34 John Krabe

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36 Samantha Wright

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## WISCONSIN'S RANK IN THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE, 2002

Commodity	Rank among States	Unit	Production			
			Wisconsin (000)	% of U.S.	United States (000)	Leading State
<b>DAIRY</b>						
Milk production	2	Lbs.	22,074,000	13.0	169,758,000	California
Butter	2	Lbs.	342,503	25.3	1,355,148	California
Cheese, total (excluding cottage cheese)	1	Lbs.	2,235,639	26.0	8,599,049	Wisconsin
American	1	Lbs.	858,272	23.1	3,709,015	Wisconsin
Swiss	2	Lbs.	37,823	14.9	254,096	Ohio
Limburger	1	Lbs.	651	100.0	651	Wisconsin
Brick and Muenster	1	Lbs.	62,873	70.1	89,711	Wisconsin
Mozzarella	1	Lbs.	748,012	26.6	2,813,712	Wisconsin
Italian	1	Lbs.	972,261	27.7	3,506,478	Wisconsin
Cottage cheese						
4% or more milkfat	12	Lbs.	10,007	2.7	372,399	New York
Less than 4% milkfat	6	Lbs.	12,072	3.2	374,296	New York
Whey products						
Dry whey	1	Lbs.	321,586	28.8	1,115,772	Wisconsin
Lactose	n.a.	Lbs.	116,200	20.8	563,136	n.a.
<b>LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY</b>						
Cattle and calves 1/, all	9	Head	3,300	3.4	96,106	Texas
Milk cows 1/	2	Head	1,265	13.8	9,152	California
Hogs and pigs 2/, all	17	Head	520	0.9	58,943	Iowa
Sheep 1/	20	Head	80	1.3	6,350	Texas
Equine 3/	22.5/	Head	120	2.3	5,317	Texas
Chickens 2/	21	Head	5,600	1.3	438,948	Iowa
Broilers	19	Head	33,800	0.4	8,364,700	Georgia
Trout, sold 12" or longer	7	Lbs.	554	1.0	54,451	Idaho
Mink pelts	1	Pelts	685	26.3	2,600	Wisconsin
Honey	8	Lbs.	6,650	3.9	171,140	California
Eggs	19	Eggs	1,158,000	1.3	86,698,000	Iowa
<b>CROPS</b>						
Corn for grain	6	Bu.	391,500	4.3	9,007,659	Iowa
Corn for silage	1	Tons	11,680	11.1	104,979	Wisconsin
Oats	2	Bu.	15,000	12.6	119,132	Minnesota
Soybeans	12	Bu.	68,880	2.5	2,729,709	Iowa
Wheat, all	24	Bu.	10,771	0.7	1,616,441	Kansas
Barley	18	Bu.	1,800	0.8	226,873	North Dakota
Hay (dry only), all	10	Tons	5,340	3.5	150,962	Texas
Potatoes, all	3	Cwt.	31,125	6.7	463,214	Idaho
Tobacco	11	Lbs.	3,815	0.4	880,734	North Carolina
Dry edible beans	17	Cwt.	137	0.5	29,974	North Dakota
Cranberries	4	Lbs.	2,000	6.2	62,800	Wisconsin
Apples	1	Bu.	38,000	10.7	8,592,100	Washington
Strawberries	8	Cwt.	43	0.2	19,702	California
Maple syrup 4/	4	Gals.	76	6.1	1,239	Vermont
Cranberries	4	Bu.	21	5.7	1,683	Wisconsin
Mint for oil	5	Lbs.	433	4.9	8,760	Washington
Carrots, all	2	Tons	108.8	27.5	395.7	Washington
Onions	14	Cwt.	532	0.8	67,365	California
Cabbage for fresh market	9	Cwt.	900	3.7	24,415	California
Sweet corn for fresh market	14	Cwt.	473	1.8	26,430	Florida
Sweet corn for processing	3	Tons	596.1	19.3	3,084.3	Washington
Green peas for processing	3	Tons	67.2	19.4	347.1	Minnesota
Snap beans for processing	1	Tons	317.1	38.1	831.3	Wisconsin
Cucumbers for pickles	5	Tons	31.8	5.2	617.3	Michigan

1/January 1, 2003 inventory. 2/December 1, 2002 inventory. 3/January 1, 1999 inventory. 4/Data for 2003. 5/Tied with Oregon.  
 Note: Wisconsin is also a leading state in the production of turkeys, ducks, ginseng, and forage. Wisconsin's rank is not available for these commodities. N.a. = not available.

## CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS: By Commodities, Wisconsin, 1998-2002 1/

Commodity	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002 2/	
	Thousand dollars	% of total								
All commodities	8,063,196		5,554,350		5,366,370		5,760,864		5,318,909	
Livestock, dairy, and poultry	4,491,416	74.1	4,193,687	75.5	3,869,650	72.1	4,470,831	77.6	3,768,302	70.8
Meat animals	700,404	11.6	701,020	12.6	816,715	15.2	839,680	14.6	745,612	14.0
Cattle and calves	580,519	9.6	600,175	10.8	700,968	13.1	707,049	12.3	666,389	12.3
Hogs	115,658	1.9	96,133	1.7	110,089	2.1	127,958	2.2	83,915	1.6
Sheep and lambs	4,227	0.1	4,712	0.1	5,660	0.1	4,673	0.1	5,308	0.1
Milk	3,496,490	57.7	3,146,262	56.6	2,688,309	50.1	3,244,752	56.3	2,662,650	50.1
Poultry and eggs	230,920	3.8	229,454	4.1	236,189	4.4	250,375	4.3	220,931	4.2
Broilers	59,751	1.0	57,204	1.0	50,184	0.9	53,703	0.9	43,590	0.8
Eggs	44,118	0.7	35,741	0.6	48,898	0.9	51,458	0.9	49,312	0.9
Miscellaneous livestock	63,602	1.0	116,951	2.1	128,437	2.4	136,024	2.4	139,109	2.6
Honey	5,831	0.1	4,080	0.1	5,141	0.1	4,450	0.1	8,645	0.2
Aquaculture	1,687	*	1,689	*	4,632	0.1	4,733	0.1	4,660	0.1
Mink pelts	23,218	0.4	19,852	0.4	24,658	0.5	23,123	0.4	22,512	0.4
All crops	1,571,780	25.9	1,360,663	24.5	1,496,721	27.9	1,290,032	22.4	1,550,607	29.2
Field crops	906,357	14.9	758,514	13.7	849,758	15.8	667,191	11.6	883,060	16.6
Wheat	20,120	0.3	18,103	0.3	20,373	0.4	28,250	0.5	37,757	0.7
Corn	619,760	10.2	516,274	9.3	565,828	10.5	451,899	7.8	565,059	10.6
Hay	54,598	0.9	39,534	0.7	46,647	0.9	24,431	0.4	51,507	1.0
Oats	7,245	0.1	9,173	0.2	5,221	0.1	6,007	0.1	8,423	0.2
Tobacco	6,336	0.1	4,198	0.1	4,198	0.1	1,747	*	5,976	0.1
Soybeans	195,297	3.2	168,257	3.0	204,917	3.8	153,340	2.7	212,891	4.0
All vegetables	367,456	6.1	342,122	6.2	393,298	7.3	383,410	6.7	382,505	7.2
Beans, dry	3,408	0.1	3,066	0.1	2,822	0.1	3,203	0.1	2,734	0.1
Potatoes	149,767	2.5	142,240	2.6	189,028	3.5	186,466	3.2	199,535	3.8
Snap beans	32,452	0.5	32,882	0.6	34,802	0.6	28,008	0.5	35,872	0.7
Cabbage, fresh	9,501	0.2	8,177	0.1	8,096	0.2	5,882	0.1	7,020	0.1
Cabbage, processing	3,036	0.1	3,145	0.1	4,491	0.1	3,829	0.1	NA	NA
Carrots, fresh	6,580	0.1	6,324	0.1	6,759	0.1	5,025	0.1	6,681	0.1
Sweet corn, fresh	10,826	0.2	9,506	0.2	10,127	0.2	11,096	0.2	9,933	0.2
Sweet corn, processing	40,634	0.7	39,131	0.7	37,715	0.7	43,287	0.8	33,520	0.6
Cucumbers	5,420	0.1	5,643	0.1	7,305	0.1	5,870	0.1	5,366	0.1
Onions	5,094	0.1	5,523	0.1	4,621	0.1	3,986	0.1	3,472	0.1
Peas	21,856	0.4	19,366	0.3	21,464	0.4	16,249	0.3	13,505	0.3
Fruits	136,583	2.3	83,223	1.5	70,720	1.3	82,984	1.4	128,267	2.4
Apples	12,276	0.5	8,915	0.2	12,716	0.2	15,271	0.3	15,332	0.3
Cherries	10,535	0.1	15,717	0.3	12,716	0.2	15,271	0.3	15,332	0.3
Strawberries	6,588	0.1	5,148	0.1	4,676	0.1	5,060	0.1	4,988	0.1
All other crops	161,384	2.7	176,804	3.2	182,945	3.4	156,447	2.7	156,775	2.9
Maple products	1,617	*	1,778	*	1,800	*	1,986	*	2,307	*
Peppermint	4,000	0.1	4,164	0.1	3,308	0.1	3,255	0.1	3,245	0.1
Spearmint	3,107	0.1	2,197	*	1,782	*	1,648	*	1,089	*
Greenhouse & nursery	149,839	2.5	165,360	3.0	172,001	3.2	146,423	2.5	146,815	2.8
Mushrooms	1,719	*	2,203	*	2,984	0.1	2,065	*	2,244	*

\*Less than .05 percent of all commodities. 1/USDA estimates and publishes individual cash receipt values only for major commodities. The U.S. receipts for individual commodities may understate the value of sales for some commodities, with the balance included in the appropriate category labeled "other" or "miscellaneous." The degree of estimation error in some of the minor commodities can be substantial. Percents of total may not add due to machine rounding. 2/Preliminary. Source: Economic Research Service.

CASH RECEIPTS = value of sales at the  
"FARM GATE" or first point of sale

## SPECIALTY CROP SUMMARY: Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value, Wisconsin, 1998-2002

Year	Planted	Harvested	Yield per acre	Production	Value	
					Per cwt.	Total
	Acres		Pounds	Hundredweight	Dollars	1,000 dollars
DRY EDIBLE BEANS 1/						
1998	7,300	7,200	1,800	115,000	26.90	3,094
1999	8,300	8,000	1,550	124,000	22.30	2,765
2000	8,300	8,100	1,800	146,000	21.80	3,154
2001	6,300	6,100	1,800	110,000	28.40	3,124
2002	7,100	7,000	1,960	137,000	17.70	2,425
			Pounds	1,000 lbs.	Dollars/lb.	
PEPPERMINT, OIL						
1998	--	8,000	50	400	10.00	4,000
1999	--	7,700	45	347	12.00	4,164
2000	--	7,000	45	315	10.50	3,308
2001	--	6,200	50	310	10.50	3,255
2002	--	5,200	68	312	10.40	3,245
SPEARMINT, OIL						
1998	--	5,300	45	239	13.00	3,107
1999	--	4,900	39	191	11.50	2,197
2000	--	4,500	36	182	11.00	1,782
2001	--	3,200	50	180	10.30	1,648
2002	--	2,200	55	121	9.00	1,089
				Gallons	Dollars/gal.	
MAPLE SYRUP						
1998	--	--	--	70,000	23.10	1,617
1999	--	--	--	75,000	23.70	1,778
2000	--	--	--	65,000	27.70	1,800
2001	--	--	--	68,000	29.20	1,988
2002	--	--	--	79,000	29.30	2,315

1/Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

## APPLES AND CHERRIES: Acreage, Yield, and Value, Wisconsin, 1998-2002

Year	Bearing acreage 1/	Yield per acre 2/	Production		Price per pound			Value of production		
			Total	Utilized	Fresh	Processed	All	Fresh	Processed	All
	Acres	Pounds	Million pounds		Dollars			1,000 dollars		
APPLES										
1998	6,400	11,900	76.1	62.0	0.316	0.065	0.278	16,622	611	17,233
1999	6,500	11,900	77.4	60.6	0.317	0.036	0.281	16,769	277	17,046
2000	6,500	10,900	71.0	58.0	0.324	0.041	0.280	15,876	369	16,245
2001	6,500	9,540	62.0	49.0	0.340	0.054	0.293	13,940	428	14,368
2002	6,400	9,060	58.0	52.0	0.390	0.038	0.349	17,940	225	18,165
CHERRIES, TART										
1998	2,400	6,580	15.8	15.2	0.320	0.150	0.151	32	2,280	2,312
1999	2,300	4,350	10.0	8.0	0.600	0.190	0.195	60	1,501	1,561
2000	2,300	4,350	10.0	9.7	0.510	0.225	0.228	51	2,160	2,211
2001	2,100	6,190	13.0	13.0	0.470	0.200	0.204	84	2,560	2,654
2002	2,100	1,900	4.0	4.0	0.550	0.510	0.512	110	1,938	2,048

1/Bearing acreage estimates are primarily based on periodic orchard and vineyard inventory surveys. Wisconsin's last periodic survey was in 1995. Interim years are based on trends in plantings and removals, county extension service data, end of season production surveys, and other available indications. 2/Yield is based on total production, which includes unharvested production and fruit harvested, but not sold due to marketing conditions.

## CRANBERRIES: Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value, Wisconsin, 1998-2002

Year	Harvested	Yield per acre	Production		Utilization		Value	
			Total	Utilized	Fresh	Processed	Per barrel 1/	Total
	Acres	Barrels	Barrels			Dollars		1,000 dollars
1998	14,500	174.1	2,526,000	2,525,000	129,000	2,396,000	43.30	109,332
1999	14,800	226.5	3,307,000	3,307,000	206,000	3,101,000	20.00	66,118
2000	15,100	178.3	2,692,000	2,598,000	187,000	2,411,000	17.40	45,192
2001	15,100	188.1	2,840,000	2,466,000	209,000	2,257,000	23.70	58,428
2002	15,900	201.8	3,208,000	3,208,000	177,000	3,031,000	32.20	103,247

1/Weighted average of co-op and independent sales. Co-op prices represent pool proceeds less returns for processing non-cranberry products, capital stock dividends, capital stock retains, and other retains.

## FLORICULTURE: Selected Potted Flowers, Production, and Price Producers with \$100,000 or More in Total Sales, Wisconsin, 2001-2002

Type of potted flower	Producers		Total quantity sold		2002 wholesale price		Wholesale value of sales	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	Less than 5 inches	5 inches or more	2001	2002
	Number		1,000 pots		Dollars/pot		1,000 dollars	
Florist mums	25	21	154	163	2.59	6.04	818	815
Hardy mums	90	91	942	1,074	1.10	2.05	1,758	1,884
Poinsettias	75	74	1,232	1,124	2.34	5.73	5,357	5,905
Easter Lilies	35	36	156	139	—	5.83	856	811
Finished Azaleas	33	35	118	133	4.94	10.14	968	1,250
Spring flowering bulbs	26	26	86	103	2.76	5.77	436	496
Other flowering plants	39	38	640	509	1.50	6.04	1,798	1,721
Geraniums (cuttings)	116	111	2,058	1,904	1.88	5.98	4,384	4,158
Geraniums (seed)	42	44	939	651	1.06	8.44	1,224	956
New Guinea Impatiens	105	105	541	496	1.76	6.32	956	996
Potted Hosta	80	83	179	254	3.50 2/	3.52 3/	658	894
Other herbaceous perennials 1/	94	94	5,217	5,386	2.23 2/	—	9,700	11,981

1/Pot price is a weighed average of all pots reported to avoid disclosure of individual operations. 2/Price is for less than 1 gallon. 3/Price is for 1-2 gallon size.

## FLORICULTURE: Selected Bedding Plants and Hanging Baskets, Production, and Price Producers with \$100,000 or More in Total Sales, Wisconsin, 2001-2002

Type of flower	Producers		Total quantity sold		Wholesale price		Wholesale value of sales	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	Number		1,000 flats or baskets		Dollars/flat or basket		1,000 dollars	
Bedding Impatiens (flats)	106	99	277	275	7.77	7.44	2,152	2,046
Bedding Petunias (flats)	111	105	277	274	8.09	7.28	2,241	1,995
Vegetable bedding plants (flats)	105	101	116	113	8.20	8.07	951	912
Geraniums (cuttings) hanging baskets	94	97	126	152	9.58	8.93	1,207	1,357
New Guinea Impatiens hanging baskets	91	86	91	111	8.96	8.76	815	872
Impatiens hanging baskets	87	89	110	94	6.98	6.71	768	631
Petunia hanging baskets	89	88	101	80	7.71	8.17	779	654

# SEEING RED

WST  
12/30/03

## Students want cranberry named official state fruit

By Phil Brinkman  
State government reporter

Sixteen years ago, legislation to designate the cranberry muffin Wisconsin's official muffin crumbled, with lawmakers deriding the idea as half-baked and offering whimsical alternatives including the meadow muffin.

This time, the cranberry stands alone.

Adopting a proposal by a group of fourth-graders from her district, state Rep. Samantha Kerkman, R-Powers Lake, has proposed making the hugely successful berry the official state fruit.

While the merits of the proposal likely will be debated — some legislators object to the proliferation of official state



Dick Riniker — La Crosse Tribune

Abundant water and acidic soil, like that found in this marsh near Warrens, just north of Tomah, help Wisconsin produce more than half the cranberries consumed in the United States. State Rep. Samantha Kerkman, R-Powers Lake, wants to make the berry the official state fruit.

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## Berry

Continued from Page B1

symbols — there is no disputing the importance of the cranberry to the state's economy.

Simply put, no other fruit produced in Wisconsin can touch it in terms of volume, market share, and acres under production.

"I can't argue with that," said Anna Maenner, executive director of the Wisconsin Apple Growers Association and the Wisconsin Berry Growers Association, which represents growers of all other types of berries.

"We are the No. 1 producer of cranberries in the country. I

think it's appropriate that they be the state fruit," Maenner said. "I wish we were No. 1 in apples."

Students in Jayme Donaldson's fourth-grade class at Trevor Grade School in western Kenosha County last year wrote Kerkman, initially suggesting the cherry as the state fruit. Kerkman asked the class to research the issue and list the reasons for their choice.

When they looked into it, they found that while Wisconsin is the fourth-largest cherry producer in the nation. It is the top grower of cranberries, producing more than half the cranberries consumed in the country, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. (It's also No. 1 in snap beans and

mink pelts, but who's counting?)

Growers harvest more than 300 million pounds of cranberries a year, compared to about 60 million pounds of apples and 4 million pounds of cherries.

The cranberry also is native to Wisconsin and is one of just three fruits native to the United States that are commercially grown — the Concord grape and the blueberry are the others, said Tom Lochner, executive director of the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association.

Amid the near-constant partisan sniping that consumes much of legislators' time, designating a state fruit might seem easy pickings for the Legisla-

ture. But lawmakers are surprisingly fickle about state symbols, adopting several or year, eschewing them as frivolous the next.

In addition to the state flag motto, seal and coat of arms, legislators have adopted 20 official state symbols, from the state beverage (milk) and grain (corn) to fossil (trilobite) and dance (polka). Most were suggested by schoolchildren.

Whether her bill (AB679) is passed or not, Kerkman said she hoped the process would be educational for the children involved, now fifth-graders.

"They will learn the whole process of how a bill comes out, how they hold hearings on it, and how it goes to the floor," she said.