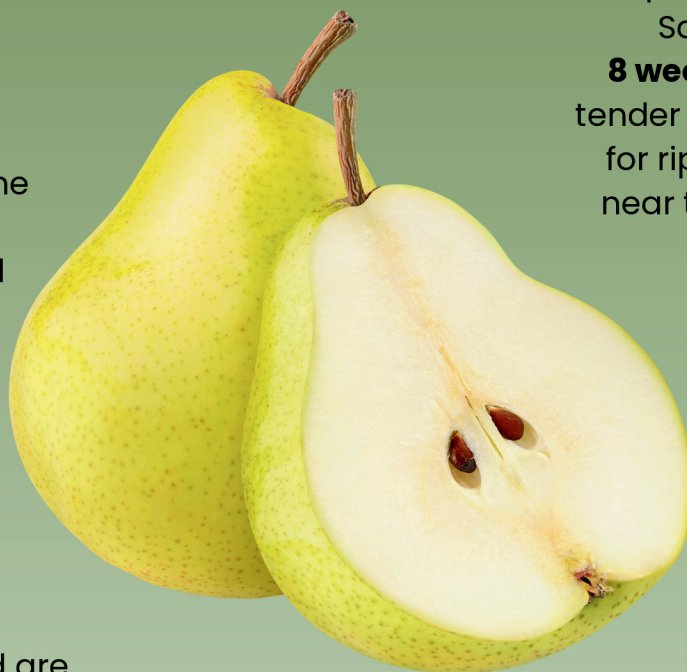


All about B.C. Pears

B.C. produces nearly **5 million kg** of pears each year! Pears are commercially grown in the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys, and the Creston Valley.



Did you know? Unlike other fruits, pears don't ripen on the tree. Sometimes, they need up to **8 weeks** off the tree to become tender and sweet. You can check for ripeness by **gently pressing** near the stem. If it's slightly soft, it's ready to enjoy!

Four main varieties of pears are grown in B.C. – Red Anjou, Green Anjou, Bartlett, and Bosc.

Pears are super juicy and are full of **fibre**, great for your digestion!

It can take up to **10–15 years** for a pear tree to reach full maturity. A large pear tree can produce over **130 kg** of fruit!



Farmer Kati's operation packs pears using an **electronic grading line**, which scans pears for defects, and gently sorts them by weight, size, and colour. Fruit packers then double check each piece of fruit by hand.

After harvest, some pears are stored in **low oxygen** cold rooms that stop them from ripening, so they can be eaten throughout the winter months.



"Farming is a **growing** and **changing industry**, where there is more and more opportunities for youth to get involved and bring exciting, innovative **new ideas** and practices.

You kind of have to be a **mad scientist** when you are a farmer. It's very exciting. My day is never the same."
–Kati, Pear Farmer, Kelowna B.C.



Farmer Kati lives in Kelowna, where the Syilx (Okanagan) people, the Nte?kepmx Tmíxʷ (Nlaka'pamux) people and the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla people speak **nsyilxcən**.

In nsyilxcən the word for fruit is **s'pí?qátq**.

Kelowna rests upon the homelands and unceded territory of the Syilx (Syeelhwh) Okanagan Nations, as well as the Nte?kepmx Tmíxʷ (Nlaka'pamux) nation and the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla nation.



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