

# WATERMELON

My name is Walter Watermelon. My brothers and sisters and I are round or oblong and have a smooth hard rind (thick skin), usually green with dark green stripes. I also have a juicy, sweet inside that is deep red to pink, but may sometimes be orange, yellow or white.

I may have many seeds or no seeds at all. Texas is ranked third in the country for growing watermelons, and we are the state's largest garden crop. You'll see us growing on long vines in patches, or large areas of a farm. As a melon, we're part of the larger gourd family and cucumbers and squash are my cousins.

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### Fun FACT

Watermelon festivals are common in Texas, including the What-A-Melon Festival in Center, Texas; the Hempstead Watermelon Festival; and the Luling Watermelon Thump.

## WATERMELON GROWING REGIONS

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The High Plains
 East Texas
 Winter Garden
 Rio Grande Valley

## Joke of the MONTH

Q: When do you go at red and stop at green?

A: When you're eating a watermelon.

### Riexandra's Refreshing WATERMELON SALAD

#### INGREDIENTS

Color the

MIELON

Squash

1 cup fresh spring greens
1 cup fresh cilantro
1 cup fresh watermelon, cubed
1/2 cup red grapes, halved
1/4 cup walnuts, chopped
1/4 cup Feta cheese
4 whole-grain dinner rolls
2 teaspoons butter

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#### PREPARATION

In a large salad bowl, mix all ingredients together. Arrange the salad mixture on a platter and serve with whole-grain dinner rolls spread with grass-fed butter, if possible. Enjoy!!!

Recipes courtesy of: www.whatscooking.fns.usda.gov