

Trivia Facts

- During the Civil War, soybeans were used in place of coffee because real coffee was scarce.
- Elevators in the Statue of Liberty use a **soybean**-based hydraulic fluid.
- One acre of **soybeans** can produce 82,368 crayons.
- Soy ink is used to print newspapers and textbooks.
- Henry Ford experimented with soy-based plastics in the production of his cars. In 1940, he swung an axe at a car trunk to demonstrate the durability of soy plastics.

Farm Facts

- U.S. farmers first grew soybeans as cattle feed.
- Today, farmers in more than 30 U.S. states grow soybeans.
- Soybeans are the country's second-largest crop in cash sales.
- The livestock industry is the largest consumer of soy meal.
- A 60-pound bushel of soybeans yields about 48 pounds of protein-rich meal and 11 pounds of oil.
- Researchers are currently researching the use of soy oil to make rubber for various interior and exterior parts, including door seals, cup holders, and floor mats.

Jokes

1. Why do potatoes make good detectives?
2. What vegetable can tie your stomach in knots?

Joke Answers

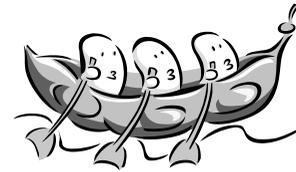
1. Because they keep their eyes peeled.
2. String beans



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What would you say if someone asked you, "Do you eat seeds?" Your answer would probably be, "No!" However, every day you most likely eat food from two very useful seeds - corn and soybeans. The plants that produce these seeds are very different but they both provide us with things that we eat and use every day.



Soybeans belong to a special family of plants. The seeds from a soybean are packed in a pod somewhat like peas, peanuts, and lima beans. Beans and peas that grow in a pod belong to the plant family called **legumes**. The soybean plant grows about 2 ½ feet tall. Each soybean plant produces 15 to 25 pods. Each pod contains 2 or 3 seeds, called beans. The leaves on the soybean plant grow in groups of three. Soybeans are sometimes called the "miracle crop" because of their hundreds of uses. Each person eats 35 to 40 pounds of soybeans a year. People may eat soybeans in bread, cereal, snacks, or salad dressing. Soybeans keep the chocolate in your candy bar smooth and creamy. Soybeans can also be found in shampoo, soap, crayons, and bio-diesel fuel.

Soybeans, like corn, are a **renewable resource**. **Renewable resources** are resources that can be planted over and over again. When they are used up, we are able to grow more. **Non-renewable resources** are things like coal, oil, and gas which take many years to produce. When these resources are gone we cannot get any more for hundreds of years. So, we must always be looking for new ways to use **renewable resources**. That is why being able to make inks, crayons, and fuel from soybeans is so important.

What Do You Remember?

1. What was the author's purpose in writing this article?

2. What **two** seeds provide food you eat and products you use every day?

3. Name **two** other seeds other than soybeans that grow in a pod.

4. Explain how the following numbers are related to **soybeans**.
 $2 \frac{1}{2}$ _____
1-20 _____
2-3 _____
35-40 _____
5. Name **6** different ways you might eat or use soybeans.

6. What is a renewable resource?

7. Why are renewable resources important to us?

8. Which soybean fact did you find most interesting? Why?

Make Your Own Homemade Salad Dressing from Soybeans!

This activity will allow you to make salad dressing with ingredients from your kitchen. First, check Mom's bottle of cooking oil. It can be one of several different kinds. It could be corn oil (from corn), canola oil, or vegetable oil (from soybeans). Any one of these oils will work but since this is about soybeans, use the vegetable oil from soybeans!

What you will need:

- 2 tablespoons of sugar
- 1 tablespoon of vinegar
- 3 tablespoons of soybean oil
- 2 tablespoons of water
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons of ketchup
- Small jar with lid



What do you do?

1. Put the sugar and vinegar in the jar. Shake until the sugar dissolves.
2. Add the oil and water to the jar. Shake again.
3. Finally, add the ketchup and shake one more time.

Use your salad dressing on a salad or use it as a dip for fresh vegetables. It's especially good because you made it yourself!

