PEARS

♦ Pears are a member of the Rose family.

♦ 95% of the pears sold in the United Sates are grown in Washington, Oregon and Northern California.

♦ There are over 3000 varieties of pears grown around the world.

♦ Pears are a good source of vitamin C, potassium, and fiber and ripen better off the tree from the inside out.

♦ Pears are native to Asia and Europe. The first pear tree was planted in North America in 1620 in the Massachusetts Bay colony.

♦ The pear was sacred to two goddesses in Greek mythology - Hera and Aphroditey. It was also sacred to the corresponding Roman goddesses, Juno and Venus, as well as to Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruitfulness.

♦ Towns with an abundance of pear trees often included the word Perry in the name of the town.