

Fresh Story | Pears

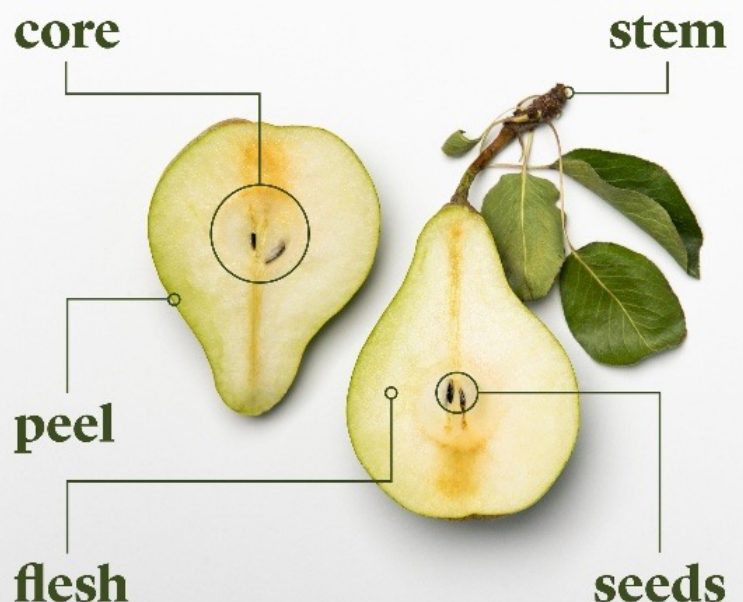
Most pears in Nova Scotia are grown in the Annapolis Valley, where the climate is best suited for production. While pears are often recognized for their classic “pyriform” (pear-shaped) form, some varieties are round like apples. Pears are pome fruits, meaning they have several small seeds in a central core surrounded by edible flesh.



Across Canada, farmers produce about 8.7 million kilograms of pears annually. The largest producers are British Columbia and Ontario, followed by Quebec and Nova Scotia, which grows about 317,000 kilograms per year.

Nova Scotia’s commercial pear varieties (or cultivars) include Bartlett and Bosc. Bartlett pears are green or yellow, while Bosc pears are brown and firm. Another Canadian cultivar, the Cold Snap, was developed to resist harsh winter temperatures.

Pear trees are hardy and can live for over 100 years, though their fruit yield declines after their peak. In orchards, trees are typically replaced every 30–40 years to maintain productivity. Farmers also manage threats such as Fire Blight, a bacterial disease, by regularly pruning with sterilized tools to keep trees healthy.





Activities for P – Grade 3

VISUAL ARTS – Pear Stamping

Materials: Pears, toothpicks, paint or ink, paper (teacher uses a knife to cut pears).

Activity: The teacher cuts pears into halves or quarters. Students use toothpicks to etch designs into their pear pieces, dip them in paint, and stamp them onto paper to create prints.

SCIENCE – Parts of a Pear

Students draw a pear or the life cycle of a pear tree, showing changes from seed to fruit. Using real pears, remove and count seeds, then use magnifying glasses to observe the skin, flesh, and seeds closely.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS – Describing Pears

Students use descriptive words to talk about pears—their colour, smell, taste, and texture. This can be a class brainstorm or pair-and-share activity focused on vivid sensory language.

Activities for Grade 4-6

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – “What’s the Season?” Game

A twist on *Red Light, Green Light*: One student is the **farmer**, one is the **season leader**, and others are **pear trees** holding beanbags (their “pears”).

- Spring = walk
- Summer = run
- Winter = freeze

If a “tree” moves at the wrong time, they drop their pear. When the leader calls Fall, everyone collects their pears. Rotate roles each round.

HEALTH EDUCATION – Staying Healthy (Humans & Trees)

Students explore how pear trees stay healthy and compare it to how humans stay healthy.

- Research how farmers prevent and treat diseases like Fire Blight.
- Discuss similarities and differences in how both plants and people prevent illness (clean tools vs. washing hands, good soil vs. good nutrition, etc.).

