

# FARM FRIDAY FUN

## WITH ARIZONA AGRICULTURE

### SAGUARO CACTUS FACTS

- ☞ Saguaro cactus can only be found in the Sonoran Desert (southern half of Arizona, SE California, Baja California, and Sonora Mexico)
- ☞ Cactus seed is the size of a poppy seed and in the natural setting will require that a creosote or palo verde tree grow above them so they can survive in the early development through the cold and heat.
- ☞ The saguaro cactus bloom is Arizona's State Flower. It will bloom in the late spring. Saguaro Cactus fruit is used to make jam, jelly, candy, wines, and more. It can be found in the summer.
- ☞ The most important factors for growth of a cactus is the temperature and water. Saguaro cactus can live to 150-200 years with the right growing conditions.
- ☞ Saguaro cactus grow very slowly. It might take 10 years to grow 1 ½ inches.
- ☞ Saguaros can grow to be 40-60 ft. tall and weigh 3200-4800 pounds when fully hydrated. The saguaro is the largest cactus in the United States.
- ☞ Although the main tap root grows about 5 feet underground, most saguaro roots are only 4-6 inches deep. They radiate out as far from the plant as it is tall.
- ☞ Birds will carve out nests in the cactus. The birds usually wait several months before "moving in" to give the pulp of the cactus time to dry and create a solid casing around the hole. The holes that are made from birds that they nested in were once used by Native American as water canteens when the cactus died. These were referred to as "saguaro boots."
- ☞ Cold temperatures can kill the cactus. They are usually found about 4,000 feet. A saguaro starts to flower around 35 years old. Depending on the amount of water available, a cactus can shrink or swell in girth by 25%.



Saguaro Cactus Flower



Saguaro Cactus Fruit



A "saguaro boot"