

# Celery

## History

Celery has been grown and used by humans for over 3,000 years. It was first grown around the Mediterranean Sea and was used by Greeks and Romans as medicine. It was not used as a food crop until the 1600s.

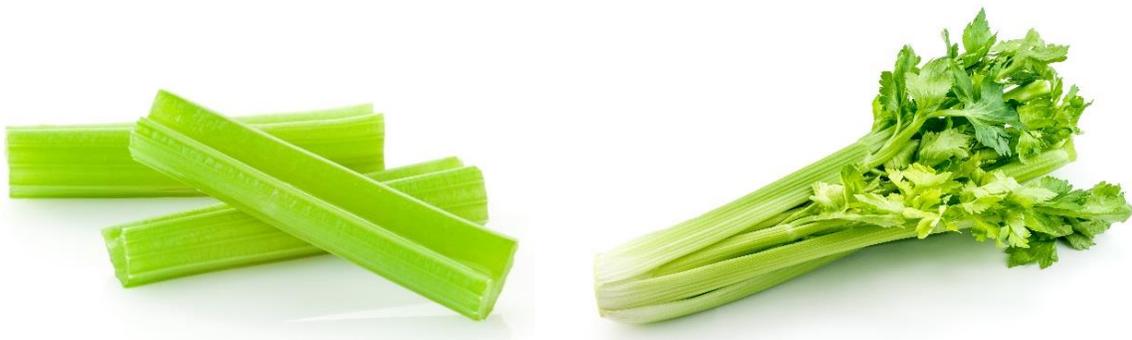
It is not known when celery first began to grow in the United States. In 1806, however, at least four varieties of celery were found in the US. Today, the Pascal variety of celery is the most common commercially grown celery crop. It was first grown in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1847. California, Florida, and Michigan grow the most celery in the US.

## Growth

Celery seeds are planted in green houses and are allowed to grow for two months. After the two-month period, the seedlings are transplanted to the field where they grow for another 4-5 months. During this time, the celery plants are watered regularly to provide the necessary water and nutrients to allow the plant to grow.

## Fun Facts

- It only takes one ounce of celery seeds to grow one acre of celery.
- One acre of farm field can hold 32,000-42,000 celery plants.
- Celery is related to carrots, fennel, and parsley.
- Celery seeds are the size of a period [.] typed in 12-point font.
- Celery is not picked until the stalks are at least 10 inches long.
- To prevent celery from losing its crispness, soak it in ice water.
- Celeriac is a type of celery that is grown for its large root which grows to be about the size of a potato.



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