

# Honeydew

## History

Most melon originated in the Middle East. Honeydew is thought to be a Middle Eastern or western Asian native, but the exact origin is unknown. They were cultivated in the Middle East since ancient times and were considered to be a sacred food by the Egyptians because of the sweet, juicy flavor.

Honeydew did not reach Europe until the late 15th century. It was grown in glasshouses during the winter in colder climate countries. Honeydew was a great favorite of the French emperor Napoleon. Melon seeds were brought to the US by Christopher Columbus. Honeydew spread further when Spanish explorers took melon seeds to California.



## Varieties

There are two main types of honeydew and they are based on color. White honeydew melons have smooth, white skin and pale, green flesh. They also have the highest sugar content so they are naturally sweeter. Yellow honeydew melons have a golden yellow skin and green flesh. New honeydew melons are more exotically colored with orange and pink flesh. The orange honeydew starts with yellow skin which turns to golden orange when ripe.

## Fun Facts

- Honeydew is the third most popular melon- watermelon and cantaloupe are the first and second.
- Melons are related to squash and cucumbers.
- When ripe, the honeydew flesh turns a pale green.
- Honeydew is the sweetest of all melons.
- Honeydew does not ripen after it is harvested.
- Honeydew is known as the “bailan melon” in China.
- California produces the majority of honeydew sold in the US.
- The honey rock melon is a cross between a honeydew and a cantaloupe.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.