HORSERADISH GROWERS OF ILLINOIS

Horseradish is a low-calorie, natural condiment that adds a distinctive, pungent flavor to foods. Wherever and whenever you see it served, be reminded that it most likely was grown in Illinois.

Horseradish is a specialty crop grown in Illinois. More than two-thirds of our nation's supply of this pungent herb root comes from Madison and St. Clair counties in southwestern Illinois. Collinsville has a horseradish festival in early summer to highlight the area's unique crop. The superior quality of Illinois horseradish is due to fertile soils, a suitable climate and producers skilled in special cultural methods. Horseradish has been passed from generation to generation in local farm families. It is a part of the heritage of some families in the American bottoms area. The income provided to the farmers from horseradish is significant in their agricultural operations.

The unique crop demands it's own equipment and handling. Growing horseradish is a labor intensive process. The growers depend on the researchers from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and University of Illinois to assist with research in controlling weeds and insects and developing new varieties of horseradish. The local extension office provides information to promote horseradish use. The Horseradish Growers of Illinois is an organization for the area growers. The annual meeting, held in January, provides an opportunity for University researchers, grinders from around the United States, growers from California and Wisconsin and the local growers to join together. Throughout the year, the local growers meet with University researchers to scout fields, observe plants, and share ideas to assist the crops productivity.

HORSERADISH is not just a condiment, it's also an ingredient!

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