

How Did Canned Cranberry Jelly Ever Get on the Thanksgiving Menu?

But the Biggest Question Is – Why Do You Like It So Much?

Thanksgiving is the time when we enjoy a special holiday dinner with our family and friends, reflecting on our blessings and opportunities. With that in mind, don't you wonder why this canned product with its unique rounded ridge-sided canned shape appears on the table with all those exquisite gourmet dishes.

It seems that cranberries are native to North America and were used by Native Americans for food and medicine. It's a great guess that they were probably part of the First Thanksgiving celebration too.

They grow best in the chilly climate and acidic soil of the northern hemisphere in states like Wisconsin, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, and parts of Washington.

All through history, cooks didn't even need written recipes to prepare those little berries into sauces or relishes. In fact, my own mother never followed any recipe when she somehow produced what I thought was the most delicious dish on the table and generously spooned it all over my turkey.

Cranberries were one of the first crops to be commercially processed because of their wet harvesting, creative growing practices, and cooperative growers. This led to the birth of Ocean Spray.



In 1912, the first canned cranberry jelly was ready to serve, and it could be used all during the year rather than just as a seasonal product. It hasn't changed very much since that time. The jelly is made in the can with cranberry's natural pectin creating the jiggling addictive product.

It was so easy to serve; so delicious; and required no extra attention other than opening the can. It became a regular addition to the holiday menu.

To many people who grew up with jellied cranberries, nothing else could take its place. It's now a symbol of the perfect Thanksgiving dinner.

<http://www.thekitchn.com/why-canned-cranberry-jelly-became-a-thanksgiving-icon-food-history-213299>

<http://www.oceanspray.com/Who-We-Are/Heritage/Cranberry-History.aspx>

<http://www.discovercranberries.com/about-cranberries/>