



April 3, 2025

DISTRIBUTED BY: REPRESENTATIVE DELENA JOHNSON

Dear Honorable Members of the Alaska Legislature,

On behalf of the Alaska State Fair Inc., a private non-profit organization dedicated to celebrating and promoting Alaska's agricultural heritage, we are writing to encourage the official designation of a State Vegetable for Alaska.

The Board of Directors wish to express our enthusiastic support for the consideration and potential designation of an official state vegetable and possibly a state fruit. We recommend the **giant cabbage** as Alaska's State Vegetable and the **giant pumpkin** as Alaska's State Fruit.

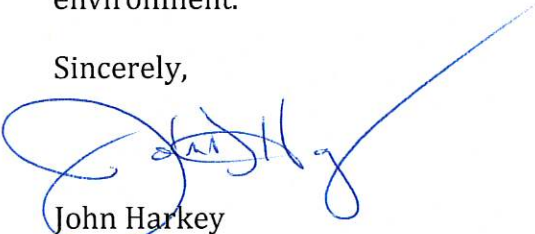
The Alaska State Fair, held annually in Palmer, has long celebrated our state's deep agricultural roots. Since its inception in 1936, the Fair has served as a proud showcase for Alaska-grown produce and a central gathering place for farmers, growers, and residents across our diverse regions. Central to this legacy is the remarkable feats of horticulture made possible by our long summer days—none more iconic than our legendary giant cabbages and pumpkins.

The **giant cabbage** has become a symbol of agricultural achievement in Alaska. Competitors bring their best to the famed Giant Cabbage Weigh-Off each year, drawing thousands of spectators and media attention. These cabbages, often weighing over 100 pounds, represent the uniqueness of Alaskan growing conditions. Alaska still holds that World Record.

Similarly, the **giant pumpkin** has become a crowd favorite and a visual embodiment of Alaska's agricultural abundance. The giant pumpkins have captivated fairgoers for dozens of years.

Designating official State Vegetables and/or Fruits would honor Alaska's agricultural history, celebrate the hard work of our farming communities, and inspire pride across generations. It would also support continued investment in and recognition of Alaska-grown food and the importance of agricultural self-sufficiency in our unique northern environment.

Sincerely,



John Harkey
President, Board of Directors
Alaska State Fair, Inc.

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