Timeline of Major or Noteworthy Cranberry Events

1620 Pilgrims learn to use cranberries from the Native Americans

1683 Cranberry juice made by settlers

1816 Captain Henry Hall first cultivates cranberries in Dennis, MA

1820s Cranberries shipped to Europe for sale

1838 First record of ice sanding on bogs; Flooding first used to control insects and prevent frost damage

1843 Eli Howes cultivates Howes variety of cranberries in East Dennis, MA

1845 “An Act for the Protection of Cranberries on Gay Head” put forth by Gay Head Indians on Martha’s Vineyard

1847 Cyprus Cahoon cultivates Early Black variety cranberries in Harwich, MA

1850s First cranberry scoops used for harvest; Water harvesting tried, but abandoned; Seamen use cranberries to prevent scurvy at sea

1854 First census on cranberry acreage - 197 acres in Barnstable County, MA

1856 The Cranberry and its Culture published by Benjamin Eastwood

1860s Maine has over 600 acres of producing cranberry bogs

1863 US Department of Agriculture creates Massachusetts Agricultural College; (University of Massachusetts) founded; Abraham Lincoln proclaims first national Thanksgiving

1871 American Cranberry Growers’ Ass’n formed in Massachusetts

1870s Six quart pail used as standard picking measure

1887 Snap scoop invented for younger vines by Daniel Lumbert

1888 Cape Cod Cranberry Growers’ Ass’n formed in Massachusetts

1906 Henry J. Franklin - Begins formal agricultural research on cranberries

1907 First market co-operative - New England Cranberry Sales Company founded

1910 Cranberry Experiment Station research facility established - Wareham, MA; Dr. Henry J. Franklin named first director of Cranberry Experiment Station; More efficient rocker scoop used

1912 Hayden cranberry separator patented; 1st cranberry sauce marketed, Hanson, MA

1920 Oscar Terbo invents first mechanical ride-on dry harvester known as Matthewson; Telephone frost warning system starts

1923 Bailey Separator patented to grade and separate cranberries by bouncing the berries

1930 Ocean Spray forms as a grower-owned marketing cooperative (one of the three founding members was Marcus Urann, a native of Sullivan, Maine)

1930s Women allowed to use scoops

1947 Walk-behind mechanical dry-harvesters replace hand-scooping

1953 First million-barrel national crop

1959 Cranberry pesticide scare in Washington State causes industry market to crash

1960s First successful water harvesting; Sprinkler systems installed on most bogs; Cranberry products diversify and markets expand;

1970s Integrated Pest Management (IPM) used by growers

1983 “Formal” IPM programs are developed

1980s International market develops for cranberries, and cranberry products become ingredients in other products

1989 Maine Cranberry Growers Ass’n forms

1990s Age-old folk remedy about cranberry juice preventing urinary tract infections (UTIs) is found to be true in various laboratory and clinical studies (the bacteria cannot adhere to the lining of the urinary tract because of the acid from the cranberries); The demand for cranberries begins to steadily grow

1995 Crop of 4,200 barrels harvested in Maine

1996 Dr. Irving DeMoranville retires from the UMass Cranberry Experiment Station

1996 Per barrel return as much as $90.00!

1998 UMaine Cooperative Extension adds a cranberry specialist to their organization (thanks to the State Legislature and the Maine Cranberry Growers Association)

2002 Two independent studies find that antioxidants—which cranberries are high in—appear to provide some significant protection against Alzheimer’s disease

2004 Crop of 21,000 barrels harvested in Maine

2009 Crop of 26,000 barrels harvested in Maine (highest so far in the state's modern history) (1 barrel = 100 lbs).