



The Gourd Family (ucurbitaceae) includes hundreds of species of vines bearing coiled, climbing tendrils and some of the most unusual fruits in the world. Gourds are very closely related to cucumbers, squash and melons. They have been grown for both ornamental and utility purposes for many years. Several societies have been established to bring together people who are fascinated by the uniqueness of these plants.

Gourds have played important cultural roles in many different societies. They can be dried and turned into culinary instruments such as bowls, plates, cups, and spoons. Dried gourds have also been made in to beautiful works of art, bird feeders, and musical instruments. Once dried the seeds inside the gourd make an awesome rattle sound.



In Idaho gourds are produced in small quantities, and are often found in peoples backyard gardens.

