



# CULINARY PROFESSIONAL'S USE OF LOCAL SPECIALTY CROPS



## INTRODUCTION

In 2022 culinary professionals across South Dakota responded to the SD Specialty Producers Association's (SDSPA) survey inquiring about their interest and experience in purchasing and sourcing local specialty crops.

## WHAT ARE SPECIALTY CROPS?

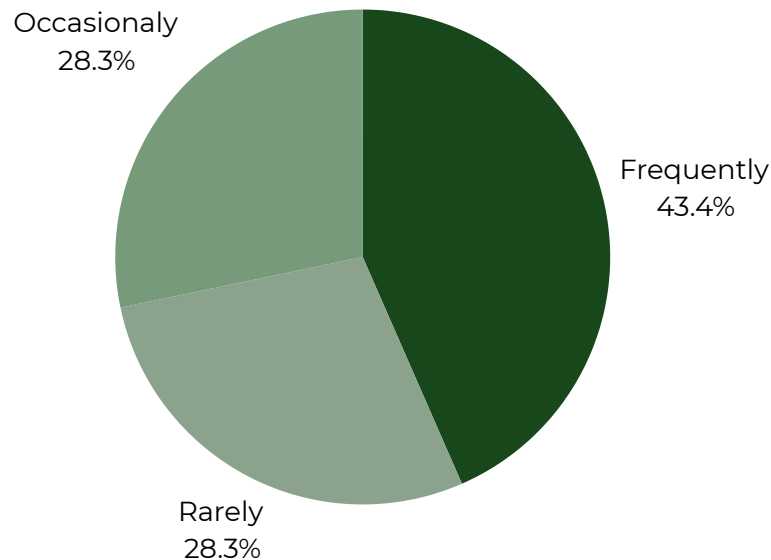
As defined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), specialty crops are fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, culinary herbs & spices medicinal plants, nursery crops, floriculture, and horticulture crops. Specialty crops are not commodity crops such as corn and soybeans.

## CONNECTING WITH LOCAL PRODUCERS

Culinary professionals reported connecting with specialty crop producers through farmers markets, personal connections, and the internet. **28%** of respondents had used the SDSPA website to connect with local specialty crop producers.

## INTEREST IN PURCHASING LOCAL SPECIALTY CROPS

*Culinary professionals intentions to purchase local specialty crops in the past three years.*



**57%** of respondents stated their interest and intention in purchasing local specialty crops has increased over the past three years.



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