

CRANBERRY COMFORT

Cooking a cranberry pot roast

Cranberries grow throughout Clatsop County.



BY DAVID CAMPICHE

Pumpkins and cranberries highlighted that first Thanksgiving in 1621. After the devastation of scurvy, when many pilgrims died, a celebration was in order for the surviving few. As the story goes, native people brought bright red cranberries as part of the feast. If it took a sound measure of sweetener to transform the tart, meaty berry, so be it! Vitamin C carried the day.

Those first immigrants survived, probably because of the assistance they received from the native Wampanoag people. The berry was called “sassamenesh” by the Algonquin, another east coast tribe. I’m proud to say I carry some of their DNA.

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The small red berries are especially popular during the holiday season.

Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian