

Agricultural Plants



**Captain John Smith
Chesapeake National
Historic Trail**



Agricultural Plants

Seeds were one of the resources traded great distances across North and South America by indigenous peoples. Food crops grown by indigenous peoples of the Bay included sunflowers, pumpkins, grapes, corn, squash, and beans. Plants had other uses as well. For example, gourd fruits are hollow and hard, making them ideal storage containers. Also, many plants native to the Chesapeake Bay, such as sassafras, bushy bluestem, and yellow pond lily, were harvested for treating different medical conditions.