

WHY CHEMICAL FAMILIES ARE LIKE BERRIES

Lately, there has been a push for one-size-fits-all policies banning, restricting, or regulating entire chemical families. A one-size-fits-all approach is neither scientifically accurate, nor appropriate. The truth is, just like in our own families, every individual chemical in a family has its own unique set of qualities and behaviors that can provide important benefits. Here's a sweet example:

Think of the berries we eat...

Yes, they may all be called "berries" but they are all very different.



Raspberries may be small, but they are a big source of vitamins and minerals.

...and the ones we don't eat.



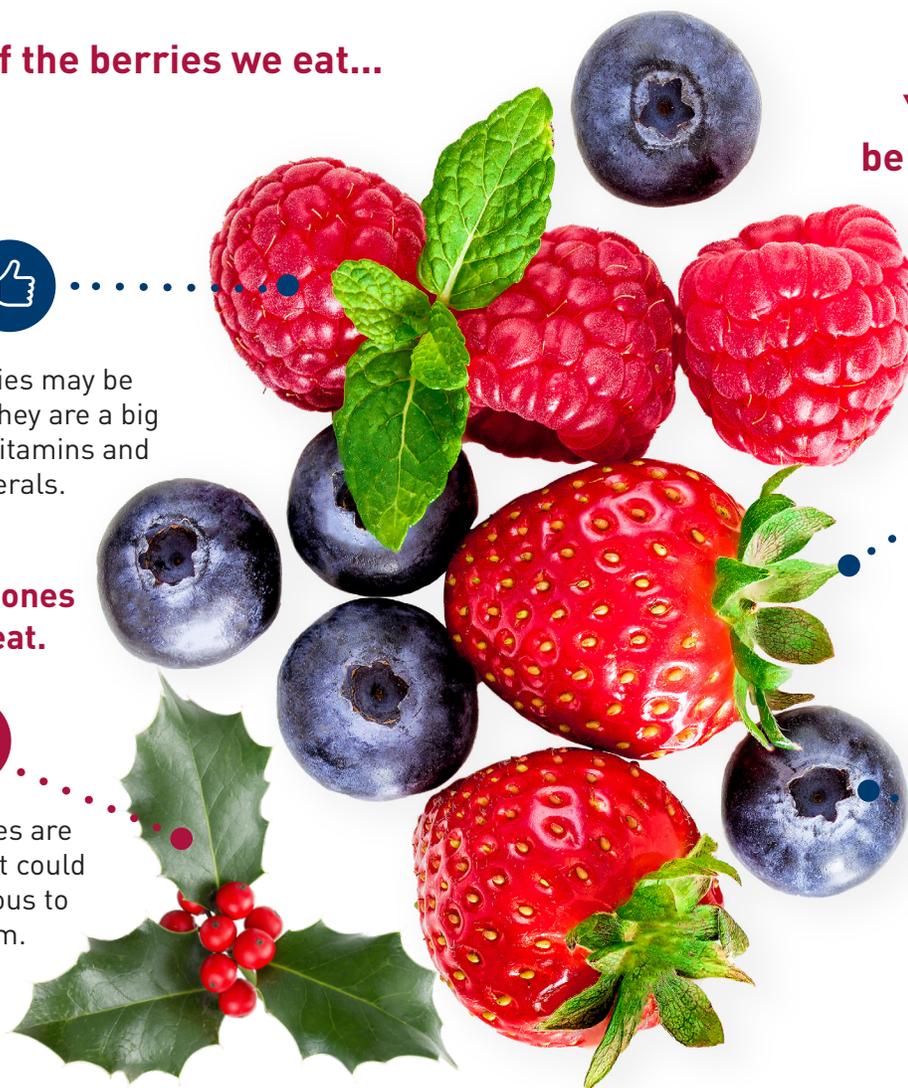
Holly berries are poisonous. It could be dangerous to eat them.



Strawberries are juicy and an excellent source of vitamin C.



Blueberries are sweet, nutritious, and have many health benefits.



Banning all berries -- because one presents a potential risk -- is groundless and illogical. The same goes for our chemicals.

While the names of chemicals may be similar, the differences in their use, structure, health, and environmental profiles make them unique. [A National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine study](#) evaluated the plausibility of applying a single class approach to regulate an entire family of chemicals and determined that differences between chemicals in the same chemical family can be too great for a single class approach to work. The study recommends using information like chemical structure, physical and chemical properties, toxicology data, and predicted biologic activity to facilitate decision-making.