



## Watermelon Weddings and Other Melon Mysteries MP3

**Gary Crawford** [00:00:00] And now, another hard hitting, gritty, investigative, report on one of the most controversial mysterious consumer products in history. A product with many aliases and whose true identity is fiercely debated. What is it?

**Rachel Schoenian & Chantel Oyi** [00:00:16] Watermelon!

**Gary Crawford** [00:00:16] Well that was a comedown, wasn't it? That was Rachel Schoenian and Chantelle Oyi, Chief VegU-cator is here in the VegU-cation tent of the Agriculture Department's Farmers market on the Mall, in Washington D.C. But stick with us. You're going to hear the debate, the controversy, the mystery about this food at the risk in fact of her own reputation. Rachel has conducted a secret investigation of watermelons looking into, first the real identity of this food item and the results startling. Most Americans think these large green globules of sweetness and goodness are fruits, but are they? There are some scientists who say they are more like vegetables, like pumpkins for example. However, Rachel's research has uncovered a game changing secret. Is a watermelon a fruit or, a vegetable disguised as a fruit or, an alien invader from outer space.

**Rachel Schoenian** [00:01:06] Botanically it's a berry.

**Gary Crawford** [00:01:07] That is one big berry.

**Rachel Schoenian** [00:01:10] A berry is defined as a fleshy fruit that has seeds on the inside, which are embedded in the ovary of the fruit, and that is what the watermelon is.

**Gary Crawford** [00:01:18] So whatever it is, Rachel has discovered that...

**Rachel Schoenian** [00:01:22] 100 percent of a watermelon is edible including the seeds and the rind.

**Gary Crawford** [00:01:27] Seeds. Yes, speaking of that, Rachel has uncovered another odd thing. The so-called seed less watermelons do have seeds, or something like them. Usually a little white one as opposed to the traditional seeds watermelon that has black seeds.

**Rachel Schoenian** [00:01:39] So if you see black seeds in your watermelon those are actually seeds. If you find kind of like white looking seeds, that's just the shell of the seed that didn't develop fully. But both the white and black seeds are safe to eat. Contrary to what my sister told me growing up watermelon would grow in my stomach if I ate the seed.

**Gary Crawford** [00:01:55] Oh no no no. Did you ever see that movie Alien where the thing comes up? Well that's pure fiction anyway. Now Rachel you said the rind is edible as well.

**Rachel Schoenian** [00:02:05] They have a more bitter taste. You could also pickle the rind. There's a lot of pickled rind recipes.

**Gary Crawford** [00:02:11] I'm sure. So, I could go online and when nobody's looking, search for pickled watermelon rind recipes, which is easier to type than it is to say. Out here, Rachel and Chantel have made and they're giving out a nice beverage from watermelon. What's that?

**Rachel Schoenian** [00:02:25] Watermelon Fresca! Which is watermelon with a little bit of extra water, also with some honey to sweeten it, some lime juice, and a little bit of mint.

**Gary Crawford** [00:02:35] Oh and somebody is sampling in here now, how is it?

**Food sampler** [00:02:39] Very tasty. It's very refreshing.

**Gary Crawford** [00:02:40] Now Rachel has also discovered the answer to an ancient unanswered watermelon mystery.

**Rachel Schoenian** [00:02:45] Why do watermelons have fancy weddings? Because they can't elope.

**Gary Crawford** [00:02:53] OK. This is a Gary Crawford.

**Rachel Schoenian** [00:02:56] One more.

**Gary Crawford** [00:02:56] No more. Gary Crawford for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington.