



GEORGIA

TOP 5 CROPS: GEORGIA

1. COTTON
2. PEANUTS
3. ONIONS
4. TOBACCO
5. PECANS

Crop Protection Leaders

Georgia is home to ten leading crop protection companies: AMVAC Chemical Corporation, BASF Corporation, BMO Capital Markets, Compliance Services International, DuPont Crop Protection, Eka Chemicals, Inc., Monsanto Company, NAMPAC, Tenkoz, Inc., and Winfield Solutions, LLC. These companies provide thousands of jobs, boosting our economy and securing our state food supply.

- In the Peach State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 5 to 22 in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make Georgia's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits Georgia's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$330 million to \$1 billion, depending upon the product.

CropLife America: Helping to Feed a Hungry World

America's crop protection industry is helping to feed a hungry world, decrease food costs, drive our economy, and protect our environment.

Crop protection technologies help control the thousands of weed species, harmful insects, and numerous plant diseases that afflict crops and threaten both the abundance and the safety of our food supply.

- The crop protection industry is one of the most highly-regulated in the U.S. today, ensuring the safety of users and consumers, and reducing environmental impacts. As the nation and the world confront the threat of climate change, the industry stands at the forefront of sustainable agriculture, helping farmers do more with less through innovation, while protecting the soil and natural habitats of the land they farm.
- Crop protection products help American farmers improve agricultural productivity, generating robust crop yields that drive local economies and create jobs from the farm, to the distribution system, to the grocery stores and restaurants who sell these plentiful foods. The strong crop yields made possible by crop protection also help keep food costs down so American families can afford meals for their table.

In Georgia, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$56 billion food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

Agriculture in Georgia: Driving the State Economy

Agriculture generates 16% of Georgia's economy, employs 759,417 people, and ranks 12th in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.

**47,846
FARMS**

47,846 farms cover more than 10,105,539 acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$7.1
BILLION**

Georgia agricultural products have an annual market value of \$7.1 billion, including 30% from crop production – valuing \$2.1 billion annually.

RANKS 1ST

Georgia ranks first in the nation in the production of both peanuts and pecans.

Georgia is also among the top producers of cotton, rye, peaches, tomatoes, and tobacco.

Without crop protection, the vital economic impact of Georgia's agricultural industry would be virtually devastated.

CROP PROTECTION IN THE PEACH STATE

Ensuring Georgia's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

The food supply nourishing Georgia families—and exported around the globe—is fundamentally reliant upon crop protection technologies.

Every spring and summer, plant diseases reproduce in countless numbers, infecting – and ultimately killing – Georgia crops. Each year, **2.5 million weeds** prepare to emerge on every acre of Georgia's cropland, competing with crops for water, nutrients, space, and sunlight. And across Georgia, crop feeding insects reproduce in countless numbers, feeding on crops, reducing yields, making crops unmarketable, and in some cases killing the plant entirely.

These infestations threaten Georgia's food supply, economy, environment, and health of our citizens. Crop protection products stem those threats, preventing crop loss and protecting the agricultural base.

Safeguarding Georgia's Environment and its Citizens

Few industries play a greater role in driving sustainable agriculture than crop protection.

Crop protection technologies enable Georgia farmers to manage weeds without plowing or tilling the soil, reducing erosion and avoiding runoff into rivers and streams, while also reducing fuel consumption. Nationwide, this practice saves **337 million gallons of tractor fuel annually**, and prevents **356 billion pounds of disturbed soil** from eroding into rivers and streams.

In Georgia, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 505,000 acres, preventing 5.7 billion pounds of soil erosion annually.

Planting more acres of arable farmland decreases animal habitats, impacting biodiversity. Crop protection technologies enable Georgia farmers to do more with less, reducing the need to convert additional acreage for crops.

Many invasive weeds and nuisance plants grow back when mowed or pulled. Far from being a simple annoyance, weeds kill native plants, suffocate lakes, and plug reservoir intakes, destroying the natural habitats of fish, birds, and mammals. Crop protection products are indispensable weapons, enabling Georgia growers to successfully preserve several endangered species populations that had nearly vanished.

Crop protection also guards the health of the food supply that sustains Georgia families and the world.

The ever-increasing reach of the global economy has allowed infectious agents like salmonella and E. coli to enter our food supply. The U.S. commitment to crop protection technologies serves as a first line of defense, attacking these threats and generating a safe, healthy, and robust food supply for Georgia and the nation.

What would the Peach State's food supply look like **WITHOUT** crop protection?

NO PEACHES

The succulent summer treat of a fuzzy peach would be virtually impossible without the saving protection of crop protection products. Without them, Georgia's famous peaches would be virtually wiped out.

NO TOMATOES

From a slice on a sandwich or a salad to the zest that makes your pizza so irresistible, tomatoes are hard to resist. Without crop protection, the ruinous impact of plant diseases and insects would devastate Georgia's tomato crop for a loss to the state of \$27 million.

NO COTTON

With cotton as Georgia's leading crop, availability of the so-called fabric of our lives would be reduced by nearly 90% affecting not only the agricultural industry, but crippling the U.S. textile, apparel, and home furnishing industries, among others.