



# IDAHO

## TOP 5 CROPS: IDAHO

1. POTATOES
2. PEAS
3. HAY
4. WHEAT
5. PRUNES

### Crop Protection Leaders

Idaho is home to four leading crop protection companies: AMVAC Chemical Corporation, Becker Underwood Inc, Monsanto Company, and Tenkoz, Inc. These companies provide thousands of jobs, boosting our economy and securing our state food supply.

- In the Gem state, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 14 to 21 times in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make Idaho's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits Idaho's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$305 to \$445 million a year, 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 Idaho, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$5.6 billion food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

### Agriculture in Idaho: Driving the State Economy

*Agriculture is one of Idaho's largest industry sectors, employing more than 100,000 people, and ranking 21st in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.*

**25,000  
FARMS**

More than 25,000 farms cover 11.4 million acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$5.6  
BILLION**

Idaho agricultural products have an annual market value of \$5.6 billion, including 51% from crop production – valuing \$2.7 billion in 2009.

**\$796  
MILLION**

The potato industry leads Idaho's crop revenues, producing nearly one-third of all potatoes in the nation with an estimated value of \$796 million.

Idaho is among the top five producers of several crops, including barley, plums, onions, sugar beets, and mint.

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

# CROP PROTECTION IN THE GEM STATE

## Ensuring Idaho's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

*The food supply nourishing Idaho 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 – Idaho crops. Each year, **2.5 million weeds** prepare to emerge on every acre of Idaho's cropland, competing with crops for water, nutrients, space, and sunlight. And across Idaho, 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 Idaho'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 Idaho's Environment and its Citizens

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

Crop protection technologies enable Idaho 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 Idaho, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 234,000 acres, preventing 1.4 billion pounds of soil erosion annually.*

Planting more acres of arable farmland decreases animal habitats, impacting biodiversity. Crop protection technologies enable Idaho 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 Idaho growers to successfully preserve several endangered species populations that had nearly vanished.

*Crop protection also guards the health of the food supply that sustains Idaho 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 Idaho and the nation.

What would the Gem state's food supply look like **WITHOUT** crop protection?

## NO POTATOES

Across the nation, Idaho is renowned for its potatoes, but without crop protection, Idaho's most famous crop would be cut by 25% to 40%, with a value loss to Idaho's economy up to \$271 million a year.

## NO WHEAT

From sandwich bread to cereal, to pasta, wheat is a staple of the American diet, but without crop protection Idaho's contribution would be reduced by 40% to 50%, draining up to \$9 million from the state's economy.

## NO SUGAR BEETS

Idaho sugar beets production soared in 2009, with revenues increasing more than 70% to an estimated \$252 million. Without crop protection products, up to 40% of sugar beets would be virtually eliminated.