



MAINE

TOP 5 CROPS: MAINE

1. POTATOES
2. CORN
3. HAY
4. BROCCOLI
5. BLUEBERRIES

Crop Protection

Crop protection in Maine boosts the economy and secures the food supply, helping to provide thousands of jobs.

- In the Pine Tree State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 14 to 17 times in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make Maine's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits Maine's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$40 to \$132.5 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 Maine, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$743 million food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

Agriculture in Maine: Driving the State Economy

Agriculture is a vital part of Maine's economy, employs 117,489 people, and ranks 42nd in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.

**8,136
FARMS**

8,136 farms cover 1,347,566 acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$167
MILLION**

Maine agricultural products have an annual market value of nearly \$167 million, including 52% from crop production valued at \$326 million.

**RANKS
10TH**

Nationally, Maine ranks 10th in potato production, with annual crops valuing more than \$92 million.

**WORLD'S
LARGEST**

Maine is the world's largest producer of wild blueberries.

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

CROP PROTECTION IN THE PINE TREE STATE

Ensuring Maine's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

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

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

Crop protection technologies enable Maine 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 Maine, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 672 acres, preventing 4 million pounds of soil erosion annually.

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

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

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

NO POTATOES

From french fries to mashed or baked, there are few foods more pivotal to the traditional American meal than the potato. In Maine, half of the potato crop would be lost to ruinous plant diseases and insects without crop protection, with a loss of more than \$46 million for the state's economy.

NO BLUEBERRIES

Maine's production of the tangy blue treat would be ravaged by ruinous insects and plant diseases were it not for crop protection technologies. The crop would face up to an 80% loss.

NO APPLE

Apples fill children's lunchboxes and offer a healthy midday snack. Without crop protection, the ruinous impact of the insects and plant diseases would virtually wipe out Maine's entire apple crop.