



MARYLAND

TOP 5 CROPS: MARYLAND

1. CORN
2. SOYBEANS
3. WHEAT
4. HAY
5. MELONS

Crop Protection Leaders

Maryland is home to one of the leading crop protection companies: Monsanto Company. This company provides thousands of jobs, boosting our economy and securing our state food supply.

- In the Old Line State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 10 to 13 times in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make Maryland's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits Maryland's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$24 million to \$84 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 Maryland, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$2.4 billion food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

Agriculture in Maryland: Driving the State Economy

Agriculture is a vital part of Maryland's economy, employs 363,191 people, and ranks 36th in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.

**12,834
FARMS**

12,834 farms cover 2 million acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$1.8
BILLION**

Maryland agricultural product has an annual market value of nearly \$1.8 billion, including more than \$629 million from crop production.

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

CROP PROTECTION IN THE OLD LINE STATE

Ensuring Maryland's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

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

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

Crop protection technologies enable Maryland 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 Maryland, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 686,000 acres, preventing 4.4 billion pounds of soil erosion annually.

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

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

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

NO CORN

The delicious sweet taste of corn is a classic American summer experience, but without crop protection technologies up to 18% of Maryland's corn crop would disappear.

NO SOYBEANS

It seems like every day a new study demonstrates the extraordinary health benefits of soybeans, and in fact, because of their variety of uses (oil, tofu, etc.) they are actually the second most valuable U.S. agricultural export. Without crop protection, imagine what a 40% reduction in Maryland's soybean crop would do to our agricultural export strength (not to mention the millions of vegetarians who rely on it for protein).