



# MASSACHUSETTS

## TOP 5 CROPS: MASSACHUSETTS

1. CRANBERRIES
2. CORN
3. APPLES
4. HAY
5. TOBACCO

### Crop Protection Leaders

Massachusetts is home to five leading crop protection companies: BMO Capital Markets, Exponent, Inc., Compliance Services International, Monsanto Company, and Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc. These companies provide thousands of jobs, boosting our economy and securing our state food supply.

- In the Bay State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 27 to 71 times in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make Massachusetts' agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits Massachusetts' agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$20 to \$139.8 million, 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 Massachusetts, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$728.5 million food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

### Agriculture in Massachusetts: Driving the State Economy

*Agriculture is a vital sector of Massachusetts' economy, employs 489,551 people, and ranks 47th in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.*

**7,700  
FARMS**

7,700 farms cover 510,000 acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$489  
MILLION**

Massachusetts agricultural products have an annual market value of \$489 million, including 74% from crop production valued at \$364 million.

**\$71  
MILLION**

Massachusetts is the nation's second largest producer of cranberries – and the crop contributes about \$71 million to the state's economy.

**RANKS  
2ND**

Massachusetts ranks number two in the nation in value of direct market sales of farm products to consumers.

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

# CROP PROTECTION IN THE BAY STATE

## Ensuring Massachusetts' Robust and Healthy Food Supply

*The food supply nourishing Massachusetts 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 – Massachusetts crops. Each year, **2.5 million weeds** prepare to emerge on every acre of Massachusetts' cropland, competing with crops for water, nutrients, space, and sunlight. And across Massachusetts, 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 Massachusetts' food supply, economy, environment, and health of our citizens. Crop protection products stem those threats, preventing crop loss and protecting the agricultural base.

## Safeguarding Massachusetts' Environment and its Citizens

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

Crop protection technologies enable Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 4,000 acres, preventing 35 million pounds of soil erosion annually.*

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

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

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

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## NO APPLES

Massachusetts apples are one of the state's top crops, filling children's lunchboxes and offering a healthy midday snack. Without crop protection, the ruinous impact of insects and plant diseases would virtually wipe out Massachusetts' entire apple crop.

## NO CRANBERRIES

Massachusetts' production of this small tart berry would be cut by up to 90%, with a value loss to Massachusetts' economy of up to \$63 million a year.