



# MINNESOTA

## TOP 5 CROPS: MINNESOTA

1. SOYBEANS
2. CORN
3. SUGAR BEETS
4. PEAS
5. POTATOES

### Crop Protection Leaders

Minnesota is home to six leading crop protection companies: AMVAC Chemical Corporation, MGK, Monsanto Company, Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc., Tenkoz, Inc., and Winfield Solutions, LLC. These companies provide thousands of jobs, boosting our economy and securing our state food supply.

- In the North Star State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields up to 14 times that in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make Minnesota's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits Minnesota's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$151 million to \$937 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 Minnesota, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **nearly \$18.2 billion food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

### Agriculture in Minnesota: Driving the State Economy

*Minnesota is a top ten agricultural state, its economy employs 516,272 people, and ranks 5th in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.*

**80,992  
FARMS**

80,992 farms cover over 26.9 million acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$13.1  
BILLION**

Minnesota's agricultural products have an annual market value of over \$13.1 billion, including 53% from crop production valued at \$5.3 billion.

**\$1.6  
BILLION**

Minnesota's top crop, soybeans, is valued at \$ 1.6 billion contributing 16.8% to the state's agricultural industry. The state is ranked 3rd in soybean production, and is responsible for 8.97% of all soybeans grown in the U.S.

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

# CROP PROTECTION IN THE NORTH STAR STATE

## Ensuring Minnesota's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

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

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

Crop protection technologies enable Minnesota 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 Minnesota, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 458,000 acres, preventing 1.7 billion pounds of soil erosion annually.*

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

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

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

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## 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 Minnesota's soybean crop would do to our agricultural export strength (not to mention the millions of vegetarians who rely on it for protein).

## NO PEAS

The little green pea often found in salads, soups, and in mixed vegetable medleys on dinner tables across the nation would be cut in half by crop-attacking insects in Minnesota, without crop protection technologies.

## NO POTATOES

From french fries to mashed or baked, there are few foods more pivotal to the traditional American meal, than the potato. In Minnesota, half of their potato crop would be lost to ruinous plant diseases and insects without crop protection, with a loss of up to \$84 million for the state's economy.