



MONTANA

TOP 5 CROPS: MONTANA

1. WHEAT
2. BARLEY
3. HAY
4. SUGAR BEETS
5. POTATOES

Crop Protection Leaders

Montana is home to a leading crop protection company: Winfield Solutions. This company provides thousands of jobs, boosting our economy and securing our state food supply.

- In the Treasure State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 7 to 11 times in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make Montana's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits Montana's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$10.5 million to \$153 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 Montana, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$3.7 billion food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

Agriculture in Montana: Driving the State Economy

Agriculture is a vital part of Montana's economy, employs 102,776 people, and ranks 33rd in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.

**29,500
FARMS**

29,500 farms cover 60.8 million acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$2.8
BILLION**

Montana agricultural products have an annual market value of more than \$2.8 billion, including \$1.3 billion from crop production.

**\$565
MILLION**

Montana's top crop, wheat, accounts for 25.3% of the state's crop production, and 7.66% of the nation's wheat production with a value of more than \$565 million.

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

CROP PROTECTION IN THE TREASURE STATE

Ensuring Montana's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

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

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

Crop protection technologies enable Montana 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 Montana, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 1.1 million acres, preventing 3.6 billion pounds of soil erosion annually.

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

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

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

NO WHEAT

From sandwich bread to cereal, to pasta, wheat is a staple of the American diet, but without crop protection Montana's top crop would be reduced by up to 40%, draining millions from the state's economy.

NO POTATOES

From french fries to mashed or baked, there are few foods more pivotal to the traditional American meal than the potato. In Montana, a quarter of the potato crop would be lost to ruinous plant diseases and insects without crop protection.

NO SUGAR BEETS

Montana's sugar beet crop helps to contribute to nearly half of all domestically-produced sugar, filling pantries across the nation with sweetener for everything from baking to beverages. Without crop protection technologies, Montana's sugar beet crop would be attacked by ruinous plant diseases, costing the state's economy millions.