



# NEW MEXICO

## TOP 5 CROPS: NEW MEXICO

1. HAY
2. PECANS
3. ONIONS
4. COTTON
5. SORGHUM

### Crop Protection Leaders

New Mexico is home to two leading crop protection companies: Monsanto Company and Tesenderlo-Kerley, Inc. These companies provide thousands of jobs, boosting our economy and securing our state food supply.

- In the Land of Enchantment, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields 22 times in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make New Mexico's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits New Mexico's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$15.4 to \$56 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 New Mexico, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$3.4 billion food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

### Agriculture in New Mexico: Driving the State Economy

*Agriculture generates a significant amount of New Mexico's economy, employs 131,556 people, and ranks 31st in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.*

**20,600  
FARMS**

20,600 farms cover 43 million acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$2  
BILLION**

New Mexico agricultural products have an annual market value of more than \$2 billion, including 25% from crop production valued at \$553 million.

**85% OF  
NATION'S  
ONIONS**

New Mexico supplies 85% of the nation's fresh onions during June, and remains the country's largest producer of its most famous export – chile peppers.

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

# CROP PROTECTION IN THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

## Ensuring New Mexico's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

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

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

Crop protection technologies enable New Mexico 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 New Mexico, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 111,000 acres, preventing 177 million pounds of soil erosion annually.*

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

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

What would the Land of Enchantment's food supply look like **WITHOUT** crop protection?

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## NO ONIONS

Onions appear in almost every recipe in any cookbook - whether raw, or sautéed or grilled - they bring a range of flavors to any meal. The ruinous impact of insects and plant diseases would reduce those flavors by one-quarter and cause New Mexico to lose up to \$54 million.

## NO COTTON

With cotton as one of New Mexico's leading crops, availability of the so-called fabric of our lives would be reduced by more than two-thirds affecting not only the agricultural industry, but crippling the U.S. textile, apparel, and home furnishing industries, among others.

## NO PECANS

Without crop protection, the ruinous impact of insects and plant diseases would destroy up to 80% of New Mexico's pecan crop.