



NORTH CAROLINA

TOP 5 CROPS: NORTH CAROLINA

1. TOBACCO
2. COTTON
3. SOYBEANS
4. CORN
5. SWEET POTATOES

Crop Protection Leaders

North Carolina is home to thirteen leading crop protection companies: Arysta LifeScience North America, BASF Corporation, Bayer CropScience, Compliance Services International, Isagro USA, Inc., Makhteshim Agan of North America, Inc., Monsanto Company, NAMPAC, Nufarm Americas, Inc., Sipcam Advan, Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc., Tenkoz, Inc., and XS, Inc. These companies provide thousands of jobs, boosting our economy and securing our state food supply.

- In the Tar Heel State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 7 to 12 times in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make North Carolina's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits North Carolina's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$119 to \$533 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 North Carolina, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$59 billion food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

Agriculture in North Carolina: Driving the State Economy

Agriculture generates 22% of North Carolina's economy, employs more than 700,000 people, and ranks 8th in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.

**52,500
FARMS**

Nearly 52,500 farms cover 8.6 million acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$10.3
BILLION**

North Carolina agricultural products have an annual market value of \$10.3 billion, including 25% from crop production – valuing \$2.6 billion annually.

**\$159
MILLION**

North Carolina leads the nation in sweet potato production by producing more than 47% of all sweet potatoes at a value of \$159 million.

TOP FIVE

North Carolina is among the top five producers of several crops including: tobacco, strawberries, cotton, and peanuts.

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

CROP PROTECTION IN THE TAR HEEL STATE

Ensuring North Carolina's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

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

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

Crop protection technologies enable North Carolina 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 North Carolina, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 1.4 million acres, preventing 11.7 billion pounds of soil erosion annually.

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

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

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

NO SOYBEANS

In 2008, North Carolina farmers produced a record-setting 55.1 million bushels of soybeans – valuing \$476 million. Without crop protection the ruinous impact of the insects and plant diseases would wipe out up to 40% of North Carolina's entire soybean crop.

NO COTTON

North Carolina ranks 5th in the nation for the production of cotton; however, without crop protection, production would be cut by 70%.

NO PEANUTS

Seven percent of all peanuts produced in the U.S. come from North Carolina. Without crop protection products, this lunchtime favorite would be virtually eliminated in North Carolina.