



RHODE ISLAND

TOP 5 CROPS: RHODE ISLAND

1. POTATOES
2. HAY
3. SWEET CORN
4. SOD
5. APPLES

Crop Protection

Crop protection in Rhode Island boosts the economy and secures the food supply, helping to provide thousands of jobs.

- In the Ocean State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 10 to 15 times in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make Rhode Island's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits Rhode Island's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$258,000 to \$2.2 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 Rhode Island, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$86.7 million food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

Agriculture in Rhode Island: Driving the State Economy

Agriculture is a critical part of Rhode Island's economy, employs 74,084 people, and ranks 49th in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.

**1,219
FARMS**

1,219 farms cover 67,819 acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$65.9
MILLION**

Rhode Island's agricultural products have an annual market value of \$65.9 million, including 84% from crop production valued at \$55.4 million.

**RANKS
34TH**

Rhode Island's top crop is potatoes. Potatoes account for 1.8% of the state's crop production, and has a value of \$1,124,000. It is nationally ranked as 34th in potato production.

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

CROP PROTECTION IN THE OCEAN STATE

Ensuring Rhode Island's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

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

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

Crop protection technologies enable Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 108 acres, preventing 367,200 pounds of soil erosion annually.

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

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

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

NO POTATOES

From french fries to mashed or baked, there are few foods more pivotal to the traditional American meal than the potato. In Rhode Island half of the potato crop would be lost to ruinous plant diseases and insects without crop protection, with a loss of up to \$990,000 for the state's economy.

NO SWEET CORN

The delicious sweet taste of corn is a classic American summer experience, but without crop protection technologies one-quarter of this top crop for Rhode Island would be ravaged by aggressive weeds and vicious crop-attacking insects, with a loss to the state's economy of up to \$518,000.

NO APPLES

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