



SOUTH CAROLINA

TOP 5 CROPS: SOUTH CAROLINA

1. TOBACCO
2. SOYBEANS
3. COTTON
4. CORN
5. PEACHES

Crop Protection Leaders

South Carolina is home to two leading crop protection companies: BASF Corporation and Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc. These companies provide thousands of jobs, boosting our economy and securing our state food supply.

- In the Palmetto State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 8 to 15 times in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make South Carolina’s agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits South Carolina’s agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$59 to \$137 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 South Carolina, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state’s **\$33.9 billion food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state’s food supply and protecting its environment.

Agriculture in South Carolina: Driving the State Economy

Agriculture is South Carolina’s largest business sector, employs 372,848 people, and ranks 35th in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.

**25,867
FARMS**

25,867 farms cover 4,889,339 acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$2.4
BILLION**

South Carolina’s agricultural products have an annual market value of nearly \$2.4 billion, including 34% from crop production valued at \$800 million.

**80% OF
EVERY
DOLLAR**

South Carolina farm families today return approximately 80% of every dollar earned back into the state’s economy.

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

CROP PROTECTION IN THE PALMETTO STATE

Ensuring South Carolina's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

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

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

Crop protection technologies enable South 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 South Carolina, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 355,000 acres, preventing 1.8 billion pounds of soil erosion annually.

Planting more acres of arable farmland decreases animal habitats, impacting biodiversity. Crop protection technologies enable South 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 South 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 South 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 South Carolina and the nation.

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

NO COTTON

Without the benefits of crop protection products for cotton, availability of the so-called fabric of our lives would be reduced by up to 30% affecting not only South Carolina's agricultural industry, but damaging the U.S. textile, apparel, and home furnishing industries, among others.

NO PEACHES

The succulent summer treat of a fuzzy peach would be virtually impossible without the saving protection of crop protection products. Without them South Carolina's peaches would be completely devastated, for a loss to the state's economy of up to \$41 million.

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 25% reduction in South Carolina's soybean crop would do to our agricultural export strength (not to mention the millions of vegetarians who rely on it for protein).