



VERMONT

TOP 5 CROPS: VERMONT

1. HAY
2. MAPLE PRODUCTS
3. APPLES
4. SWEET CORN
5. POTATOES

Crop Protection

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

- In the Green Mountain State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 16 to 33 times in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make Vermont's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits Vermont's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$1.6 to \$19.5 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 Vermont, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$2.6 billion food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

Agriculture in Vermont: Driving the State Economy

Agriculture generates 12% of Vermont's economy, employs 63,384 people, and ranks 41st in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.

**6,984
FARMS**

6,984 farms cover 1,233,313 acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$673.7
MILLION**

Vermont's agricultural products have an annual market value of \$673.7 million, including 15% from crop production valued at \$101 million.

**\$10-12
MILLION**

Vermont's fresh apple crop is valued at \$10 to 12 million each year, with processed apple products, like cider, applesauce, and hard cider bringing in an additional \$10 to 12 million into the state each year.

**37%
NATIONS
MAPLE
SYRUP**

With maple products accounting for one the largest agricultural outputs, Vermont produces 37% of the nation's maple syrup supply.

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

CROP PROTECTION IN THE GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE

Ensuring Vermont's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

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

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

Crop protection technologies enable Vermont 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 Vermont, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 3,600 acres, preventing 17 million pounds of soil erosion annually.

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

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

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

NO APPLES

Apples are the state's third 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 Vermont's entire apple crop.

NO SWEET CORN

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