



# WASHINGTON

## TOP 5 CROPS: WASHINGTON

1. APPLES
2. RASPBERRIES
3. HOPS
4. SPEARMINT
5. CHERRIES

### Crop Protection Leaders

Washington is home to five leading crop protection companies: AMVAC Chemical Corporation, Compliance Services International, Eka Chemicals, Inc., Exponent, Inc, and the Monsanto Company. These companies provide thousands of jobs, boosting our economy and securing our state food supply.

- In the Evergreen State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 25 to 39 in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make Washington's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits Washington's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$740 to \$2.7 billion 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 Washington, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$32 billion food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

### Agriculture in Washington: Driving the State Economy

*Agriculture generates 12% of Washington's economy, employs 160,000 people, and ranks 12th in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.*

**39,000  
FARMS**

39,000 farms cover 14.9 million acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$6.8  
BILLION**

Washington agricultural products have an annual market value of \$6.8 billion, including 70% from crop production – valuing \$4.8 billion annually.

**\$1.75  
BILLION**

The apple industry leads Washington's agriculture revenues, producing 57 % of all apples in the nation, at a value of \$1.75 billion.

Washington leads the nation in production of several crops: 92% of raspberries, 77% of hops; 75% of the nation's supply of spearmint oil; 51% of sweet cherries; 46% of concord grapes; 46% of pears; 41% of peppermint oil; and 38% of prunes and plums.

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

# CROP PROTECTION IN THE EVERGREEN STATE

## Ensuring Washington's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

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

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

Crop protection technologies enable Washington 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 Washington, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 342,000 acres, preventing 2.8 billion pounds of soil erosion annually.*

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

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

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

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## NO APPLES

The Washington apple is the state's 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 Washington's entire apple crop.

## NO RASPBERRIES

Washington's production of the small tart berry would be cut by 50% to 60% with a value loss to Washington's economy of over \$43 million a year, without crop protection products.

## NO HOPS

From the microbreweries of Seattle to the major beer brands across the Midwest, beer has become an American tradition. Without crop protection products, 77% of the hops would be eliminated by insect infestations.