



CALIFORNIA

TOP 5 CROPS: CALIFORNIA

1. GRAPES
2. ALMONDS
3. LETTUCE
4. STRAWBERRIES
5. TOMATOES

Crop Protection Leaders

California is home to sixteen leading crop protection companies: AgraQuest, Inc., AMVAC Chemical Corporation, BASF Corporation, BMO Capital Markets, Canyon Group LLC, Compliance Services International, Crop Data Management Systems, Inc, Exponent, Inc., Five Americas, Inc, Monsanto Company, Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc., Technology Sciences Group Inc., Tenkoz, Inc., Valent USA Corporation, Wilbur-Ellis Company, and Winfield Solutions, LLC.

- In the Golden State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 23 to 25 times that in benefits in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make California's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits California's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$1.3 to \$7.1 billion, 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 California, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$39.1 billion food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

Agriculture in California: Driving the State Economy

California leads the nation in agricultural production and produces half of the nation's grown fruits, nuts, and vegetables. Agriculture is the state's leading employer – accounting for more than 1.1 million jobs.

**81,033
FARMS**

81,033 farms cover 25.4 million acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$33.9
BILLION**

California agricultural products have an annual market value of \$33.9 billion, including 68% from crop protection – valuing \$23 billion.

**SOLE
PRODUCER**

California is the sole producer of crops such as almonds, artichokes, figs, grapes, pomegranates, and walnuts.

**LEADER BY
THE DOZEN**

California leads the nation in production of dozens of crops including: kiwifruit, lemons, carrots, broccoli, bell peppers, plums, Romaine lettuce, garlic, strawberries, spinach, and eggplant.

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

CROP PROTECTION IN THE GOLDEN STATE

Ensuring California's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

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

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

Crop protection technologies enable California 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 California, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 13,000 acres, preventing five million pounds of soil erosion annually.

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

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

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

NO GRAPES

From a children's juice box to a healthy office snack, the tangy sweetness of grapes would be virtually wiped out without the use of crop protection technologies, as the ruinous impact of plant diseases would devastate California's entire grape crop.

NO STRAWBERRIES

Without crop protection, California's production of this classically sweet fruit would be cut by 55% to 60% with a value loss to California's economy of over \$925 million a year.

NO ALMONDS

Whether making cookies with almond extract or sprinkling them on a salad for a protein boost, almonds contribute to a whole host of food choices in the US. Without crop protection products, those highly-nutritious nuts would be reduced by up to 70%.