



# CONNECTICUT

## TOP 5 CROPS: CONNECTICUT

1. SWEET CORN
2. APPLES
3. TOBACCO
4. HAY
5. PEACHES

### Crop Protection Leaders

Connecticut is home to three leading crop protection companies: AMVAC Chemical Corporation, Chemtura Corporation, and Monsanto Company. These companies provide thousands of jobs, boosting our economy and securing our state food supply.

- In the Constitution State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 9 to 32 times in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make Connecticut's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits Connecticut's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$1.62 to \$13 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 Connecticut, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$728 million food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

### Agriculture in Connecticut: Driving the State Economy

*Agriculture generates a significant amount of Connecticut's economy, employs 228,429 people, and ranks 44th in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.*

**4,916  
FARMS**

4,916 farms cover more than 405,600 acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$551  
MILLION**

Connecticut agricultural products have an annual market value of \$551 million, including 73% from crop production – valuing \$402 million annually.

**\$7.3  
MILLION**

Each year, Connecticut produces more than \$7,387,000 worth of apples.

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

# CROP PROTECTION IN THE CONSTITUTION STATE

## Ensuring Connecticut's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

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

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

Crop protection technologies enable Connecticut 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 Connecticut, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 4,000 acres, preventing 37 million pounds of soil erosion annually.*

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

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

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

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## NO APPLES

Apples fill children's lunchboxes and offer a healthy midday snack. Without crop protection, the ruinous impact of the insects and plant diseases would virtually wipe out Connecticut's entire apple crop.

## NO SWEET CORN

The delicious sweet taste of corn is a classic American summer experience, but without crop protection technologies nearly half of this top crop for Connecticut would disappear with a loss to the state's economy of up to \$32 million.