



FLORIDA

TOP 5 CROPS: FLORIDA

1. ORANGES
2. SUGAR CANE
3. TOMATOES
4. GRAPEFRUIT
5. STRAWBERRIES

Crop Protection Leaders

Florida is home to eight leading crop protection companies: AMVAC Chemical Corporation, BASF Corporation, Exponent, Inc., Makhteshim Agan of North America, Monsanto Company, Syngenta Crop Tenkoz, Inc., The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, and Winfield Solutions, LLC. These companies provide thousands of jobs, boosting our economy and securing our state food supply.

- In the Sunshine State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 20 to 32 times in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make Florida's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits Florida's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$841 million to \$2.3 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 Florida, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$8.6 billion food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

Agriculture in Florida: Driving the State Economy

Agriculture generates a significant amount of Florida's economy, employs 1,204,508 people, and ranks 11th in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.

**47,463
FARMS**

47,463 farms cover more than 9,231,570 acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

\$7.8 BILLION

Florida agricultural products have an annual market value of \$7.8 billion, including 80% from crop production – valuing \$6.2 billion annually.

**>50%
CITRUS FRUIT**

Florida produces more than half the nation's citrus fruit.

**PRODUCTION
LEADER**

Florida leads the nation in the production of several crops including: snap beans, fresh market tomatoes, cucumbers for fresh market, cucumbers for pickles, bell peppers, squash, and watermelons.

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

CROP PROTECTION IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

Ensuring Florida's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

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

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

Crop protection technologies enable Florida 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 Florida, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 54,000 acres, preventing 140 million pounds of soil erosion annually.

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

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

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

NO ORANGES

Delicious Florida oranges provide much-needed antioxidants and refreshments to millions of Americans everyday. Unless these wholesome treats are safeguarded by crop protection technologies, the ruinous impact of insects and plant diseases would wipe out 80% of Florida's orange crop.

NO TOMATOES

From a slice on a sandwich or a salad to the zest that makes your pizza so irresistible, tomatoes are hard to resist. Without crop protections, the ruinous impact of plant diseases and insects would devastate Florida's tomato crop by up to 50%.

NO PEANUTS

From a child's peanut butter sandwich to a protein-filled handful as a mid-afternoon snack, peanuts are an ubiquitous food choice in America. Without crop protection, Florida's peanut crop would be cut by up to 70% with a value loss to the state's economy of as much as \$83 million.