

KNOW YOUR FOOD IS SAFE

Helping farmers grow more food that is safe and healthy is critical to food security and affordability. Today's advanced pesticides have to meet stringent government standards – and undergo more than a decade of testing and review by multiple agencies – to prove that they are safe for human and animal health as well as the environment when used as intended. Learn more about this process, and why these products are important for farmers.



Safety testing of pesticides

looks at how they might affect **humans, wildlife**, and the **environment**.

This includes testing focused on:

- Human safety for all ages**
- Water protection**



- Food safety**
- Potential impacts to domestic animals as well as wildlife and their habitats**
- How it protects crops**
- How it breaks down**
- How long it lasts in the environment**

A LONG AND STRINGENT PROCESS

All pesticides have to pass rigorous approval processes that can demand over 150 safety studies and on average take more than 12 years.* Even after regulatory approval, the safety monitoring continues.**

Source: <https://croplife.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Time-and-Cost-To-Market-CP-2024.pdf>
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The U.S. EPA follows a rigorous review process to confirm the safety of pesticide products – a process called registration review – that is repeated at least every 15 years.



Regulatory approval takes on average more than 12 years.

Products continue to be monitored and reapproved

A review process for every country

Pesticides have to comply with the regulations of every country in which they are manufactured, used, or sold. This means some pesticides have to meet the standards of more than 100 different regulatory agencies around the world.



Without pesticides, farmers would need twice as much land* to grow the same amount of food due to reduced yields.

*Cropplife America, The Contribution of Crop Protection Products to the United States Economy 2011

Today, about 400 million acres in the U.S. are used to raise crops.** Without pesticides, farmers would need about 800 million acres or 42% of the total land area of the lower 48 states in the U.S. In addition to clearing forests and wetlands, this would require huge amounts of water to irrigate desert land and twice as much fuel.

**USDA, Census of Agriculture – 2017, Factsheet: Farms and Farmland, 2019 at mass.usda.gov/Publications/Highlights/2019/2017Census_Farms_Farmland.pdf

Helping farmers grow more food is critical to food security

The world needs more food

More than 3 billion people face food insecurity

Source: <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/food>

By 2050, the world's population could grow from 8 billion to 10 billion

Source: <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/how-feed-10-billion-people>

If farmers don't use pesticides

Yields and food quality decrease

Food prices increase

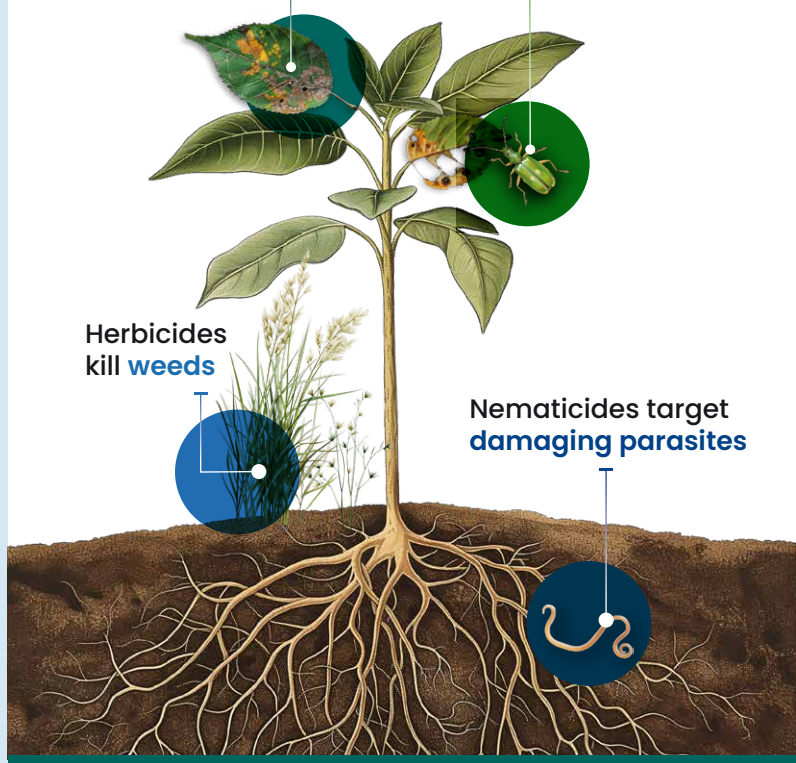
Amount of land, water and energy to produce food increases

Source: <https://www.croplifeamerica.org/pesticide-faqs>

Battling bugs and weeds

What pesticides do:

- Fungicides protect plants from **disease**
- Insecticides manage **harmful bugs**
- Herbicides kill **weeds**
- Nematicides target **damaging parasites**



Modern pesticides are developed to:

- Break down more quickly in the environment
- Achieve control with lower amounts of product
- Be more selective in controlling their target pests
- Be in line with United Nations sustainability criteria