

Pesticides

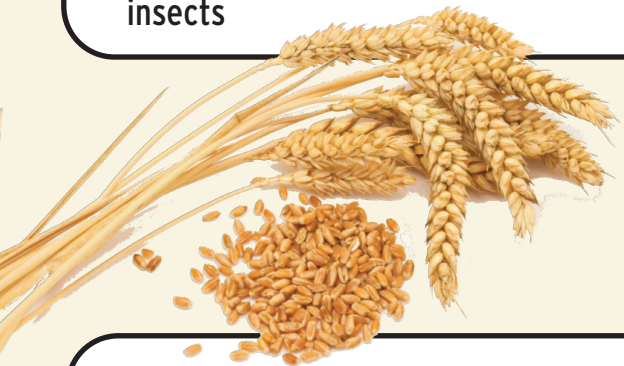
What you should know

Pesticides are used in all agriculture – eco-modern, traditional and organic – to protect crops from harmful pests. A pest is defined as a destructive plant, insect or species that can cause harm to an animal, person or crop. Farmers use pesticides in situations where the pest can cause lasting damage to the growing plants.

What types of pesticides do all farmers use?

The three most commonly used pesticides by farmers are:

- Fungicides – protect plants against harmful fungi and bacteria
- Herbicides – protect plants by removing weeds that will compete for nutrients
- Insecticides – protects plants against harmful insects



Health Canada and Pesticide Regulation

All crop protection products are regulated, tested and certified for use in Canada by Health Canada (HC) under the Pest Control Products Act (PCPA). Before any pesticide can be registered in Canada, Health Canada reviews the scientific information to make sure that the pesticide is effective in dealing with the pest problem and there are no health or environmental concerns related to its use.

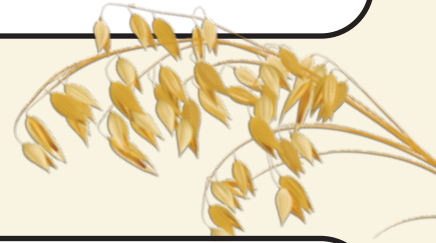
Did you know?

To date, there is no evidence to that there is a health risk from eating conventionally or organically grown produce because of pesticide residues.

(Source: Health Canada)

Used sparingly

Applying pesticides is very expensive for farmers and they are only used when necessary. Farmers take many measures, like crop rotation and soil management practices, to reduce their pest risks. To determine if a pesticide is needed, the farmer will analyze a variety of variables including field history, soil health, weather patterns, and pest outbreaks in neighbouring fields.



Training and certification

MYTH: Anyone can use pesticides.

TRUTH: Farmers must be trained and certified on how to safely handle and apply the products. Ontario's Pesticide Education Program offers courses and training in the safe care, handling and usage of pesticides with an emphasis on farmer and environment safety.

Training and certification

There are thousands species of weeds, insects and fungi/bacterium that can cause serious harm to food crops. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that between 20 and 40 percent of global crop yields are reduced each year, due to the damage wrought by plant pests and diseases.

Resources:

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/_fact-fiche/reg-pesticide/index-eng.php
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/_fact-fiche/pesticide-food-alim/index-eng.php
<https://www.opep.ca/index.cfm/farmers1/about-the-gpsc-exam/>
<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/280489/icode/>



www.GoodinEveryGrain.ca

Farmers have to be certified to spray pesticides on their fields.

If they are not certified, they cannot purchase or apply pesticides.



\$4,000



SAVED ON AVERAGE ANNUAL FOOD BILL

as a result of farmers using pesticides to help protect their crop from insects and weeds.

How? Well, crop protection equals more food, which helps keep prices low.

1 cup  +

pesticide



treats


1 acre

One acre is the size of sixteen tennis courts

There would be much less food in our food system...

73% ↓

DECREASE IN GLOBAL CROP YIELDS



...if farmers did not use pesticides.

Farmers are able to manage EXACTLY the amount of pesticide that is applied on the fields – right down to a droplet size of spray!

Fact: Different crop protection treatments are used at different droplet sizes to protect the environment.