

# Why Pesticides Matter



Pesticides help farmers produce abundant, safe, quality foods at affordable prices.

Globally, crops must compete in fields with the following damaging pests:



**3,700+**  
types of weeds<sup>1</sup>



**8,000+**  
fungi and fungal-like species<sup>2</sup>



**600+**  
types of insects<sup>3</sup>

In storage, insects, mold, and rodents can also cause damage.   

**26-40%** of the world's potential crop production is lost annually to pests and diseases.<sup>4,5</sup>

Up to **75%** of fruits and vegetables could be lost **without the use of pesticides!**<sup>6</sup>



The U.S. food and agriculture sector directly supports **24 million U.S. jobs**, including millions of manufacturing jobs. Overall, agriculture is responsible for **\$9.5 trillion in American economic activity.**<sup>7</sup>

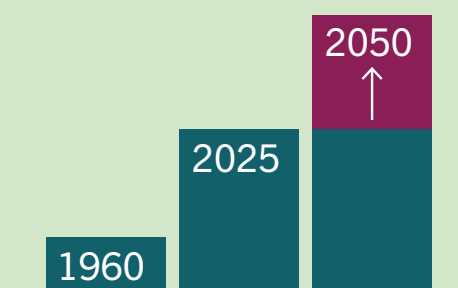
Since 1960



By 2050

The production of major crops has **tripled with the help of pesticides.**<sup>8</sup>

Growers will **need to produce up to 70% more food** to feed 9 billion+ people.<sup>9</sup>



## Pesticides:

- ✓ Help farmers grow more food on less land and raise productivity per acre.<sup>10</sup>
- ✓ Decrease harmful micro-organisms and naturally occurring toxins on crops, preventing food-related illnesses.<sup>10</sup>

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## References:

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