

# CROP PROTECTION TOOLS ADVANCE AGRICULTURE



Crop protection tools are vital to the economical and safe production of food, as they help farmers efficiently protect against weeds, insects and plant disease. However, ongoing challenges to the continued use of pesticides in farming is threatening the ability of growers to continue operating in California.

Western Growers has a long history of promoting the responsible use of innovative, safe and environmentally sound crop protection technologies that are critical in growing California's fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts.

## THE FACTS

Crop protection products are crucial for an abundant and reliable food supply.

- Up to **40% of the world's food production** would be **lost to pests and diseases** without crop protection tools.
- **Population has doubled** while land devoted to food production has remained constant; crop protectants have enabled farmers to produce **higher yields of crops on less land**.



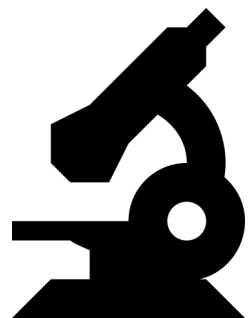
**40% CROP LOSS**

- Crops must compete with **30,000** species of weeds, **3,000** species of nematodes and **10,000** species of plant-eating insects.
- Crop protection products help **fight diseases** that jeopardize public health by killing parasites such as malaria and guinea worm.

## REGISTRATION & SCIENCE

Because the process to deem a pesticide safe for use is extremely extensive, any type of additional restrictions should be scientifically justified.

- Costs **\$286 million** and takes **11 years** to research, develop and register a new crop protection product.
- EPA requires all pesticides to undergo up to **120 health, safety and environmental tests** before a product is registered for sale and use.
- **Thousands of pages** of test data are rigorously **reviewed and scrutinized** by scientific and administrative branches of the EPA and DPR before crop protection products gain approval.



# ONE TOOL AMONG MANY

Pesticides are just one tool among many that we use to protect the food we grow from harmful insects and plant and soil diseases.



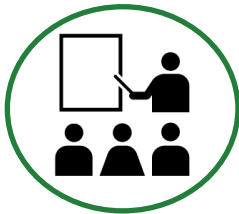
## OTHER METHODS

Farmers practice other methods of pest control such as frequent crop rotation, mechanical tillage and proper timing of planting.



## PRECISION

When pesticides are absolutely needed, they are applied judiciously and precisely. A farmer's motto is: the right protection, in the right amount, in the right place, at the right time.



## SAFETY TRAINING

Safety considerations pertaining directly to the use of crop protection products includes education and training programs on the safe and efficient use of products.

# IN CONTEXT

Pesticides—including fumigants, herbicides, fungicides and insecticides—aren't just used in agriculture. They are used in everyday households without any buffer zones or notification requirements.

- Each year, more than **100,000 termite fumigations** are conducted in California alone. These thousands of homes or structures are merely sealed and tented before fumigation, with absolutely no required buffer zones or notification provisions.



- Consumers use commercial pesticides and weed killers for home lawn and garden care. These millions of residents around the country are not required to enforce a buffer zone or notify their neighbors before spraying to prevent further weed growth or insect infestation.