

Pesticide Use is Widespread in U.S. Crop Production

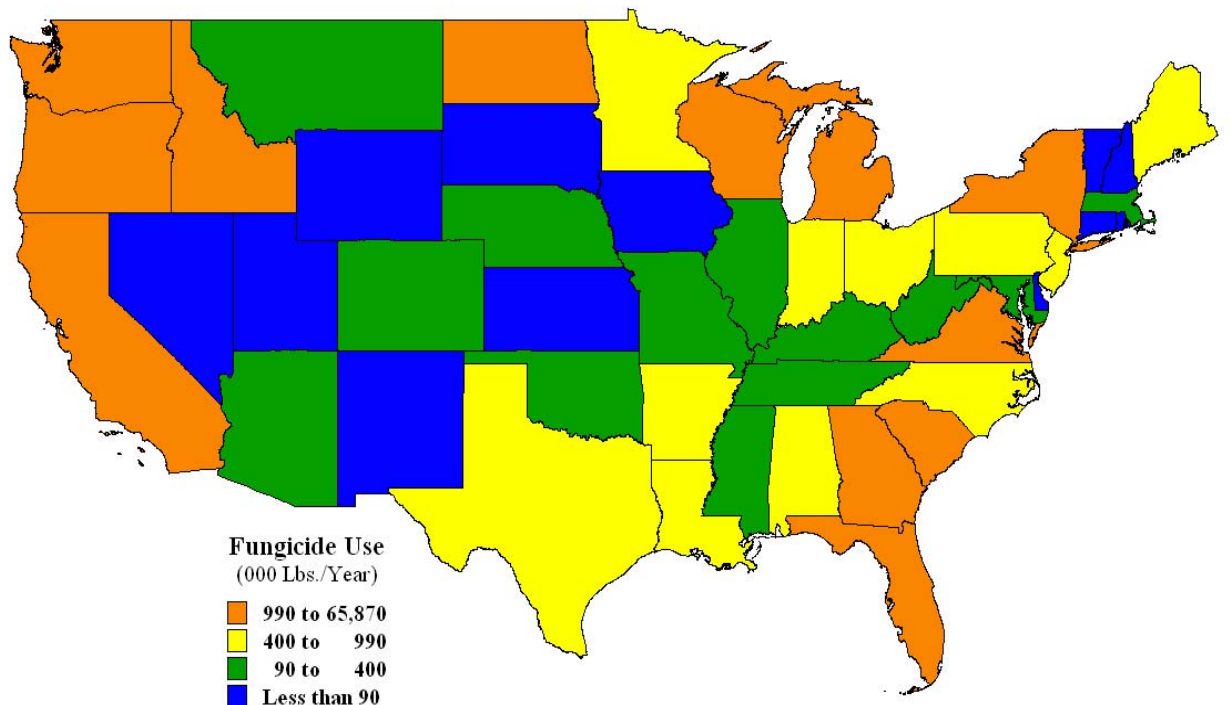
220 million crop acres are sprayed with herbicides to kill weeds.

90 to 99% of the acreages of most fruit and vegetable crops are sprayed with fungicides to kill disease-causing fungi and bacteria.

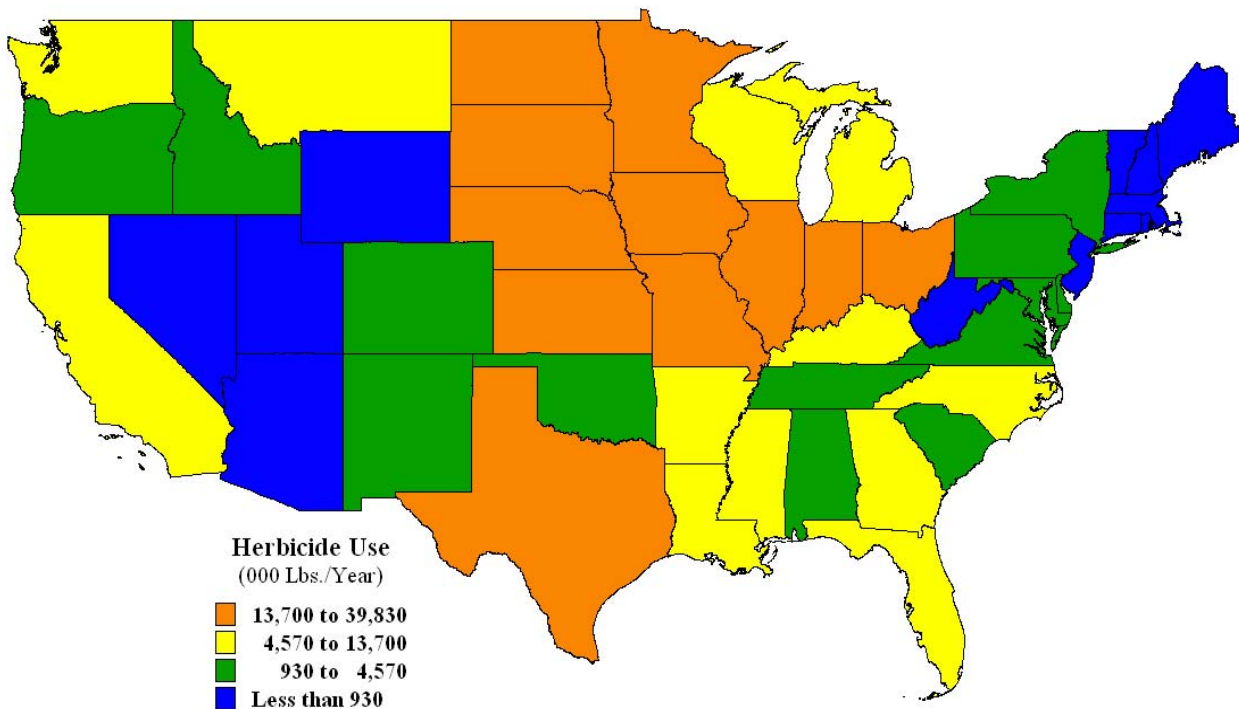
U.S. Crop Acres Treated			
<i>Herbicides</i>		<i>Fungicides</i>	
Corn	98 %	Apples	93 %
Cotton	95 %	Carrots	95 %
Peanuts	97 %	Citrus	88 %
Potatoes	93 %	Grapes	100 %
Rice	98 %	Lettuce	85 %
Soybeans	96 %	Potatoes	94 %

Fungicide Use by State: 2002

- Fungicide use is highest in California and other fruit and vegetable growing states like Florida, Georgia, Michigan and Washington.
- U.S. farmers spend \$1 billion on fungicides and their application each year.
- Fungicides are often sprayed 10 to 15 times each year to prevent fungal infections.



Herbicide Use by State: 2002



- Herbicide use is concentrated in the Midwest, where large acreages of corn and soybeans are treated every year.
- American growers spend \$7 billion each year on herbicides and their application.
- One to two applications of herbicides generally gives season long control of all weed species.

Herbicides have made it possible for growers to practice no-till crop production. No-till agriculture eliminates the use tractors and plows to kill weeds, which loosen soil and promotes erosion. By using herbicides instead of tillage on 50 million acres, 300 billion pounds of erosion is being prevented.