

PESTICIDES

The Basics

WHY ARE PESTICIDES USED

Without management, pests can destroy entire crops causing huge losses for growers, retailers and consumers. Managing pests without pesticides can require more labor and time than most large-scale growers have.

WHAT ARE PESTICIDES

A pesticide is a substance designed to kill (or repel, deter or prevent) pests in order to reduce or prevent the resulting damage. There are many kinds of pesticides because there are many kinds of pests; herbicides kill weeds, fungicides kill fungus, insecticides kill insects, and so on.



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WHAT ARE PESTICIDES MADE OF

A pesticide product is made up of one or more active ingredients that are used to attack the pest, along with various “inactive” ingredients that are used for other purposes like attracting the pest or reducing pesticide drift. For example, Roundup contains the active ingredient glyphosate.



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WHAT IS PESTICIDE RISK?

Pesticide risk depends on two things: toxicity of the ingredients and exposure to the pesticide. Risks are highest when a pesticide is highly toxic and there is great potential for exposure.



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