



For Immediate Release

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New Report Identifies Top Uses of Herbicides and Fungicides in U.S. Crop Production

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The CropLife Foundation has assembled and released the *National Pesticide Use Database: 2002*, the only publicly available, comprehensive, national database delineating the use of herbicides and fungicides in U.S. crop production. Herbicides are pesticides used to kill weeds. Fungicides are used to kill fungi and bacteria that cause plants to rot and die. The *National Pesticide Use Database* delineates the use of 154 active ingredients for 87 crops in the 48 coterminous states for 2002.

Database compilers, Leonard Gianessi and Nathan Reigner, identified the top crops, states and active ingredients in terms of pounds of pesticide active ingredients applied annually. Illinois and Iowa rank highest in herbicide use due to large acreages of corn and soybeans. Large acreages of fruit and vegetable crops, especially grapes, lead California to rank highest for fungicide use. In volume terms, glyphosate is the top herbicide, with U.S. growers using more than 100 million pounds each year. Sulfur and copper are the highest volume fungicides. CLF’s Nathan Reigner noted with irony that “the two highest volume fungicides in the U.S. are used by organic as well as conventional growers.”

CropLife Foundation’s *National Pesticide Use Database: 2002* database updates databases assembled for 1992 and 1997. “In the aggregate, fungicide and herbicide use rose between 1992 and 1997 and then declined between 1997 and 2002,” said Mr. Gianessi. This was largely due to the substitution of lower rate compounds for previously used higher rate compounds. The reduction in use was particularly impressive for corn, where use decreased by 48 million pounds between 1997 and 2002.

Overall herbicide use declined by 62 million pounds while fungicide use declined by 17 million pounds. This aggregate decrease in herbicide use is particularly impressive in light of the dramatic increase in the use of glyphosate, which rose from 35 million pounds in 1997 to 102 million pounds in 2002. Glyphosate’s increase resulted from the rapid adoption of biotech crops and no-till farming practices, both of which incorporate glyphosate for weed control. Use of 74 herbicide active ingredients declined between 1997 and 2002 due to the substitution of glyphosate or other lower rate active ingredient.

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2002 National Rankings of Pesticide Use	
<i>Million Lbs. AI/Year</i>	
States	
<i>Fungicides</i>	
California	66
Florida	10
Washington	8
Georgia	4
Michigan	4
<i>Herbicides</i>	
Illinois	40
Iowa	37
Kansas	24
Nebraska	23
Indiana	22
Crops	
<i>Fungicides</i>	
Grapes	45
Tomatoes	10
Apples	7
Potatoes	7
Citrus	7
<i>Herbicides</i>	
Corn	159
Soybeans	91
Pasture	30
Cotton	22
Wheat	17
Active Ingredients	
<i>Fungicides</i>	
Sulfur	71
Copper	13
Chlorothalonil	9
Mancozeb	8
Captan	3
<i>Herbicides</i>	
Glyphosate	102
Atrazine	77
2,4-D	40
Acetochlor	36
S-Metolachlor	25

Figure 1: Fungicide Use by State 2002

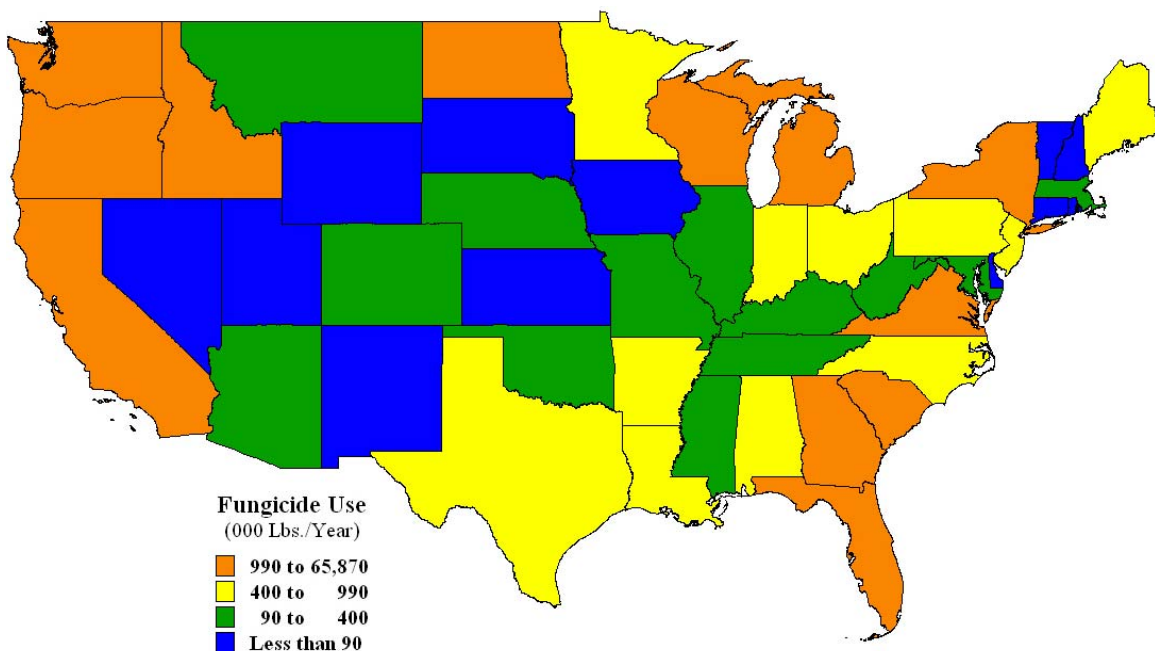
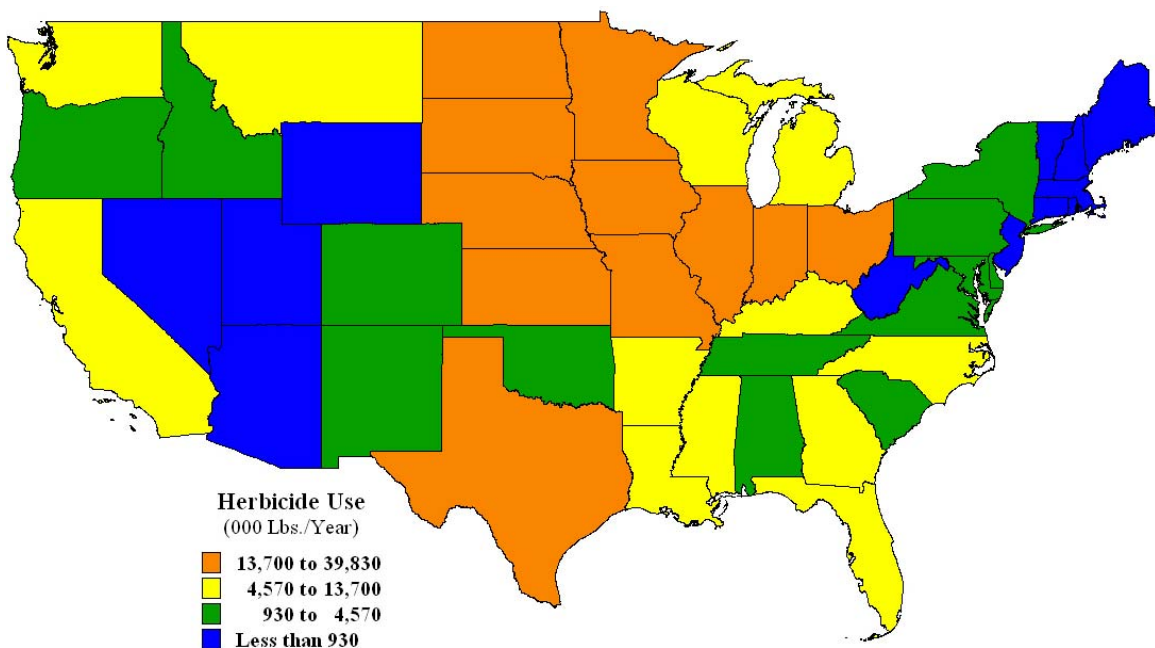


Figure 2: Herbicide Use by State 2002



The CLF database was assembled entirely from publicly-available sources with funding from U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, and CropLife America's member companies. *NPUD2002* includes 10,277 new records of fungicide and herbicide use. The database, a summary report, and supporting documentation can be accessed at http://www.croplifefoundation.org/cpri_npud2002.htm.