



Sustaining California's Farmland

Crop Protection + Sustainable Land

The amount of farmland in California covers almost 40,000 square miles — about the size of the state of Virginia. The state recognizes the importance of preserving this land— not just to ensure life-sustaining food production and a robust economy — but to help fight climate change, as noted in the 2030 Natural and Working Lands Climate Change Implementation Plan.

Protecting crops from pests and nourishing plants with fertilizers to preserve sustainable land is an essential component of ensuring California retains its carbon-reducing farmland.

Benefits of fertilizers

With more than 1,000 types of soil in California, the use of fertilizers is a sophisticated and critical way for ensuring that crops can thrive. Fertilizers contain natural compounds such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

Fertilizers mean healthy plants, which:

- Eliminate carbon and produce oxygen
- Use less water
- Are more able to resist pests
- Produce more food
- Keep land in production



Benefits of regulated pesticide use

Pesticides exist for a reason — to protect crops from being destroyed by pests so that people will have food to eat. They also have many other benefits:

- Increased food production
- Contamination-Free Food Supply
- Affordable food
- High-quality produce



Public safety

In California, the public can be assured that any pesticide in use has undergone rigorous review that takes years. And application requirements — including buffer zones and weather considerations — ensure workers and nearby communities are protected.

California is the only state to have its own Department of Pesticide Regulation

Pesticides and other crop protection tools go through a much tougher review process than other states, which rely on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

During the process, the state easily requires a company submit over 72,000 pages of data and conduct over 300 environmental and human health studies.



Global leadership

California leads the nation in working with farmers to:

- Limit pesticides and ensure their safe use
- Next generation fertilizers to boost plant health and conserve resources
- Gene-editing for healthier, pest-resistant plants
- Nourish the soil so that it can be sustainable

Challenges

Regulations +
laws not
based on
science

Excessive
regulations that
do not protect
the public or
environment

Increased
fees