

## 1.2 BILLION REASONS TO EAT ORGANIC

**Currently, U.S. synthetic pesticide use is about 1.2 billion pounds each year; worldwide pesticide use is approximately 5 billion pounds each year.** In California, after a massive increase in pesticide use in the early to mid-1990's, reported use has stabilized at about 200 million pounds of active ingredients each year. This figure only includes farm use and professional pesticide use. Not included are consumer and much institutional pesticide use. Also not included in this figure are so-called 'inert' ingredients. Inert ingredients are solvents, emulsifiers, spreaders, and other substances that are mixed into pesticide products to increase the effectiveness of the active ingredients, make the product easier to apply, or to allow several active ingredients to be combined in one solution. For detailed information on pesticide use in CA or the U.S. visit: <http://panna.igc.org/>

### **Synthetic Pesticides are:**

- Not regulated by USDA/tested by FDA... There is no national pesticide use reporting system in place in the U.S. Instead, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) both provide estimates of pesticide use.
- Harmful... To all living things, humans, wildlife, and the environment.
- Cumulative... Pesticides use chemicals that are persistent bio-cumulative toxins. These toxins accumulate in our body fat and are nearly impossible for our bodies to eliminate. The effect of this chemical cocktail on human health has never been tested.
- Unnecessary... We can farm and garden without using harmful chemicals to control and/or kill pests. Besides that nature has taken care of itself long before companies developed Round-Up, there are many alternative methods to control pests as used by organic farmers.

### **What is a pesticide\*?**

Broadly defined, a pesticide is any agent used to kill or control any pest. Pests can be insects, rodents or birds, unwanted plants (weeds), fungi, or microorganisms such as bacteria and viruses. Though often misunderstood to refer only to insecticides, the term pesticide also applies to herbicides, fungicides, and various other substances used to control pests. Under United States law, a pesticide is also any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a insect or plant growth regulator, insect mating disruptor or egg sterilant, defoliant, or desiccant.

SOURCE: [http://www.pesticideinfo.org/search\\_use.html](http://www.pesticideinfo.org/search_use.html)

Although also named "Pesticides", there is a clear distinction and difference between synthetic, chemically-based pesticides and pest management materials that are allowed in organic farming, i.e. garlic barriers to repel aphids.

For more information, please visit the following web sites:

[www.ccof.org](http://www.ccof.org) <http://www.pesticideinfo.org/> <http://www.igc.apc.org/cpr/index.html>

[www.pesticide.org](http://www.pesticide.org)