With more than 10,000 species of insects, 30,000 species of weeds, and 100,000 crop diseases caused by fungi, viruses, bacteria and other microorganisms\(^1\), crops are up against many threats in the field. For this reason, U.S. farmers use a variety of methods to protect their crops, including pesticides.

- Weed growth not only lowers blueberry yields but also makes harvesting difficult, with 10-30% of the crop left behind. Herbicides control the growth of weeds and help increase blueberry yields by 56%.\(^2\)

- California grows more than 80% of the fresh market and processed strawberries grown in the U.S. and it is estimated that a 60% yield loss would occur if insecticides were not used to fight pests like spider mites, slugs and lygus bugs.

- Did you know a peach tree will only live for four years if infected by peach tree borers? Farmers use insecticides to control borers and oriental fruit moths, reducing damage from 67%-1%.\(^4\)

- Leaf spot infections are estimated in 80% of cherry orchards in the eastern U.S. and have the potential to reduce yields by 100% if not controlled. Farmers who use fungicides can reduce defoliation of cherry trees from 80 to 03%.

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\(^1\) http://www.hau.ernet.in/coa/pdf/ento4789.pdf
\(^2\) https://croplifefoundation.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/3-maine-blueberries.pdf
\(^3\) http://croplifefoundation.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/combined_document_strawberries.pdf
\(^4\) https://croplifefoundation.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/combined_document_peaches.pdf