

Pesticides and You

News from the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (NCAMP)

NCAMP's Index to Pesticide Statistics

■ **Acute Poisoning:** *Ed. Note: Poisoning statistics vary widely, and are generally unreliable due to problems including difficulty in diagnosing even acute pesticide poisoning, lack of reporting, and lack of data collection.* •• In the U.S., 300,000 farmworkers may be poisoned by pesticides each year, with only 1-2% of these cases reported.¹ •• Worldwide, WHO/UNEP estimates 1 million cases of unintentional pesticide poisoning each year, with 20,000 deaths. •• U.S. National Poison Control Centers received an estimated 100,000 pesticide related calls each year.²

■ **Lawn Care:** Sales of lawn care pesticides each year: 67 million lbs. for \$700 million.³ •• 11% of single family homes use pest control operators, sup-

porting a \$1.5 billion/year lawn care industry.³ •• Homeowners apply between 5-11 lbs./acre.^{4,5}

■ Agricultural Application Rates⁵:

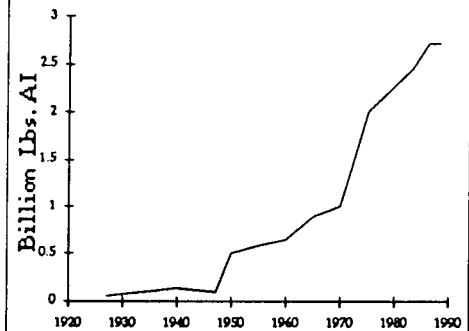
Croplands:	2.7 lbs./acre
Fruit:	79.2
Vegetables:	9.8
Cotton:	8.3
Corn:	3.2

■ Pesticide Reaching Pests⁵:

0.03% for aphids on beans. • 0.0000001% of DDT for Heliothis. •• 1-5% of post-emergence herbicide reaches target weeds.

■ **Crop Losses:** Insects: 7.1% 1942-51 up to 13% in 1974, despite a 10-fold increase in insecticide use and a proliferation in types from fewer than 10 to

U.S. Pesticide Production, All types, 1927-1988



Sources: EPA Market Estimates, 1986, 1988; Pimentel & Andow, 1984; Metcalf, 1980.

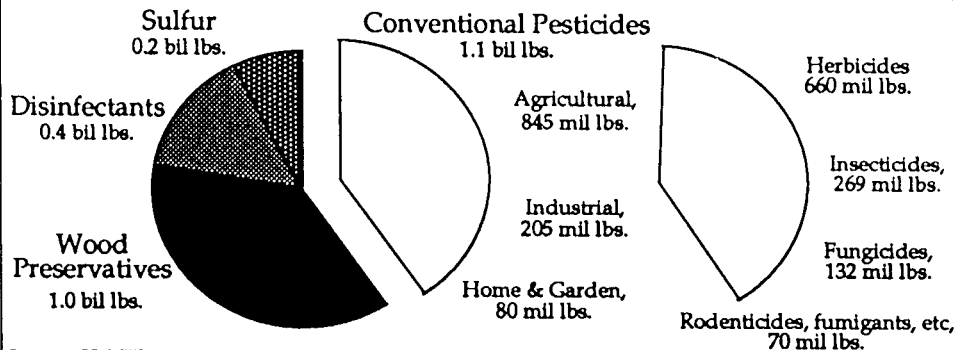
more than 300!⁶ •• 24 of the 25 most serious economic pests (causing more than \$1 million in damage) in CA during 1970 were secondary pests.⁷ •• 72% of these secondary pests are resistant to one or more insecticides.⁸ •• 96% of them are either pesticide-created or pesticide aggravated.⁸

■ **Companies⁹** (Top 7 ranked by pesticide sales): Ciba-Geigy, \$2.27 billion; ICI, \$2.02; Bayer, \$1.86; Du Pont, \$1.68; Rhone-Poulenc, \$1.64; Monsanto, \$1.55; DowElanco, \$1.48.

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■ **Sources:** ¹OTA, 1990, *Neurotoxicity*; ²EPA, 1990; ³GAO, 1990, *Lawn Care Pesticides*; ⁴NRC, 1980, *Urban Pest Management*; ⁵Pimentel & Levitan, 1986; ⁶Pimentel, et al, 1979; ⁷CDFA, 1978; ⁸Van den Bosch, 1978, *The Pesticide Conspiracy*; ⁹AGROW, June, 1990.

U.S. Pesticide Usage Estimates, 1988



Source: U.S.EPA 1988 Pesticides Market Estimates