

NASS Programs

2019 Fruit Chemical Use Survey

About the Survey

The Fruit Chemical Use Survey provides detailed data about farm operators' use of chemicals on fruit crops.

All data are collected by personal interviews. NASS contacts growers during the survey period when the 2019 harvest is complete, or after the last chemical application has been made. Because of variation in geographic and crop harvesting periods, the survey will run from October 2019 through February 2020.

NASS will release the results of the survey on July 29, 2020. All data will be available via NASS' Quick Stats database: quickstats.nass.usda.gov

Response Confidentiality

All information NASS collects in this survey will be kept strictly confidential, as required by federal law. The results of the survey will be available in aggregate form only, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

Who Uses the Information?

All sectors of the agriculture industry – producers, buyers, suppliers, policymakers and others – rely on fruit chemical use data to make sound business decisions. For example:

- Accurate pesticide use data are the only way to ensure that producers continue to have access to the chemicals they need. If growers do not accurately document their use of these products, regulators might not re-register a widely relied on product.
- Industry associations such as the Northwest Horticultural Council and United Fresh Produce Association use the data to advocate for domestic and international policy such as export policy and pesticide registration, as well as to track trends of fruit growing practices.
- Agencies such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration use the data to document the quality and safety of U.S. food products, providing assurances to both domestic and international customers.

What Topics Does this Survey Address?

NASS interviewers will ask about production practices related to the target fruit crops in the included states. Questions include:

- Fruit acres operated
- Pesticides used (including name of the chemical product and method, amount, rate, and frequency of application)
- Types of fertilizers you use on your fruit crops
- Pest management practices

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