

2006 WISCONSIN PESTICIDE USE SURVEY

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In 2006, the Wisconsin Agriculture Statistics Service (WASS) and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) completed a major pesticide use survey for the 2003-2005 growing seasons. This survey was conducted and reported so that it can be compared to previous pesticide use surveys (major surveys in 1985, 1990 and 1996 and annual summaries in 1991-2006). DATCP intends to conduct a major pesticide use survey approximately every 5 to 10 years so that long term trends in pesticide use in Wisconsin can be identified and studied. The survey report contains a wealth of information on pesticide use in Wisconsin.

The survey was conducted by using personal interviews with farm operators. The various crops surveyed included field crops (corn, soybeans, barley, potatoes and oats), fruits (apples and tart cherries), and vegetables (fresh market cabbage, processing carrots, processing cucumbers, processing green peas, processing snap beans, processing sweet corn and fresh market sweet corn).

The results of the survey show that pesticide use remains an integral part of crop production in Wisconsin. A high percentage of the acreage of the crops surveyed receives herbicide applications. The prevalence of insecticide and fungicide use varies considerably from crop to crop. The following table shows this information in more detail.

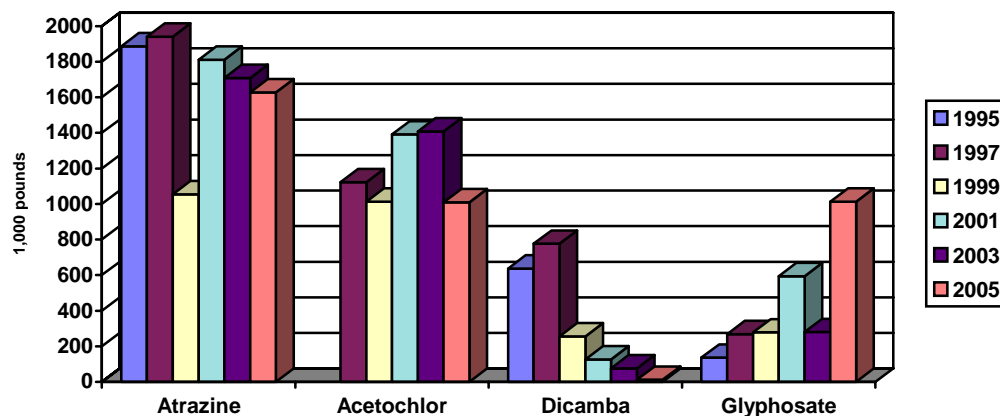
Acres Planted and Pesticide Use on Selected Crops, Wisconsin, 2004-2005

Crop	Acres planted (X1000)	Acres receiving herbicides (percent)	Acres receiving insecticides (percent)	Acres receiving fungicides (percent)
Corn	3,800	97	22	--
Soybeans	1,610	98	11	--
Potatoes	68.0	99	97	99
Sweet corn †	80.7	87	53	27
Snap beans †	76.0	89	83	51

† For processing.

One new feature that started with the 1996 report is the comparison over time of the use of selected pesticides. This information is useful for observing which pesticides are increasing in popularity and which ones are decreasing. For example, the survey results show that the use of the corn herbicides atrazine and acetochlor remains fairly constant, dicamba (Banvel) use is decreasing and glyphosate use is increasing. The following graph shows some of these trends. (Note: corn acres planted varies by year).

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**Historic Use of Selected Corn Herbicides
(total applied)**

Another set of comparisons in this report is between pesticide use in Wisconsin and other nearby states. This information points out some interesting differences between crop production and pesticide use in Wisconsin versus our neighbors that are more oriented to cash grain production. Some of these other states produce much larger quantities of corn and soybeans than Wisconsin and use correspondingly greater quantities of pesticides.

2005 Corn Production (1,000 acres) and Herbicide Use (1,000 pounds)
in Six Midwestern States.

State	Corn acres planted	Atrazine	S-Metolachlor (Dual)	Glyphosate (iso salt)
Wisconsin	3,800	1,627	1,677	1,013
Illinois	12,100	13,729	5,005	1,176
Indiana	5,900	5,670	3,001	772
Iowa	12,800	8,276	4,335	2,230
Michigan	2,300	1,952	676	699
Minnesota	7,300	1,660	681	2,853

Copies of the 2006 Wisconsin Pesticide Use Report are available from the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service, P.O. Box 8934, Madison, WI 53708-8934. Telephone 608/224-4848. The report is also available at http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Wisconsin/Publications/Miscellaneous/pest_use_06.pdf