

Protecting Our Local Food Supply

Five Facts About Responsible Farm Pesticide Use

- 1** Most farms practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which employs all available pest control techniques and calls for the use of pesticides only when necessary. It's costly for farms to use pesticides. IPM practices include monitoring fields for pests, treating as appropriate and necessary, and rotating fields among crops and types of pesticides to keep pest populations to a minimum.
- 2** Some beneficial insects are predators of other pests and weeds. Having these beneficial insects on the farm can reduce the need to use pesticides. Pest control practices should seek to preserve beneficial insects.
- 3** All pesticides used in Hawaii must be pre-approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. The development, testing and approval process for a new pesticide can take up to 10 years, cost hundreds of millions of dollars, and require hundreds of health and environmental studies.
- 4** "Restricted Use Pesticides" (RUP) contain many of the same ingredients as products consumers purchase in retail stores but often in more concentrated forms. Federal and state regulations require RUPs to be purchased and used only by trained, licensed applicators to ensure they're used properly.
- 5** Data gleaned from the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture's voluntary "Good Neighbor Program" reveals that the annual amount of RUPs applied by Kauai seed companies has been the equivalent of less than two cans of soda (21.0 fl. oz.) per acre.

