

5,000 YEARS OF CROP PROTECTION

3000BC

The Ancient Sumerians use sulfur to control insects.

600BC

Greeks and Romans use oil, ash, sulfur and other materials to control insects.



1600s

Farmers use tobacco infusions (nicotine) and a range of herbs.

1800s

Sulfur and copper compounds are used to protect fruit, vegetables and plants.



MODERN METHODS

1930s

The era of synthetic (man made) crop protection begins, increasing yields far beyond pre-World War II levels and supporting the Green Revolution in India.

1940s

Weed control is revolutionized with the herbicide 2,4-D. Farmers use it to control weeds.



1960s

First generation of pyrethroids is developed to fight insects. Today they are widely used in agriculture and make up the majority of household insecticides.

1970s

The herbicide glyphosate is commercialized and gains popularity for its broad spectrum weed control and low toxicity to animal life.

1990s

Seed treatments are used to create a protective barrier around a seed. These provide more targeted control to help farmers use less product.



2000s

In the first decade of the new millennium, plant scientists discover 112 new active ingredients to help farmers grow more crops sustainably.



The plant science industry continues to invest \$3.4 billion each year* on research and development to find innovative products to help farmers protect their crops into the future.

*Based on 2013 figures.