

Pesticide Residue on Organic Fruit Vs. Non-Organic Fruit

Pesticides are necessary in agriculture to protect crops from insect infestation, diseases and weed takeover. Pesticides can leave residues on fruits and vegetables that can lead to severe health effects. To ensure consumer safety, the EPA has set tolerances for each pesticide that is enforced by the USDA to regulate pesticide usage. Consumers have a choice between organic produce, uses natural, non-synthetic pesticides, and conventional or non-organic produce, which uses synthetic pesticides. It is in question whether organic fruit actually contains lower levels of pesticides than conventional fruit. Research shows that in other countries such as Ireland, Serbia and Canada, organic fruit generally has less detected pesticides and they are at lower concentrations than conventional but there were multiple violations of MRLs (Maximum Residue Levels). An independent study outside of the USDA has not been done, can the same conclusions be found within the United States, sampling from the Central Valley of California?