

# PENNSYLVANIA APPLE GROWERS are Committed to **Safe Growing Practices**

## ORGANIC OR CONVENTIONAL?

### ORGANIC *what does it mean?*

Both organic and conventional are production terms. Neither addresses the **quality, safety or nutritional value** of fruits, vegetables and other products.

- “Organic” is **NOT** synonymous with “pesticide-free” or “chemical-free”
- Most state laws allow organic farmers to use a wide variety of chemical sprays on crops; *BUT* the product’s active ingredients must be derived from natural sources (*not synthetically manufactured*)
- Whether crop protection products are organic or synthetic does not determine their safety; safety is determined by the level of chemicals present\*
- Eco-friendly practices are now common in both conventional and organic systems due to on-going university research on increasing sustainability

*\*The US has stringent standards governing pesticide use and allowable chemical levels. The USDA concludes year after year that “overall pesticide residues are at levels well below the tolerances set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).”*

### What about **GMO?**

There are **hundreds of non-GMO apple varieties available to consumers**. In fact, the Arctic® Brand apple is the only approved genetically modified apple in production. The Arctic Apple is not yet available to consumers. When the apple comes to the market it will be clearly labeled as Arctic®.



Apples are full of healthy nutrients that can positively impact human health. Choosing to eat more conventional and organic produce is always the right choice.

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## INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Pennsylvania's temperate climate, seasonal changes, and more than 40 different insects, plant diseases and other conditions that threaten apples make it nearly impossible for growers to produce organic fruit on a commercial scale.

Despite these challenges, PA apple growers are committed to producing the highest quality, best tasting fruit that is **safely grown and harvested** so you and your family can enjoy all the healthy benefits delicious apples have to offer. Growers do this by employing **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** practices.

### *What is* **IPM?**

IPM is a method of managing pests that combines different types of pest control methods — biological, cultural, chemical and mechanical — to reduce the possibility of harm to people, the tree and its fruit, and the environment.

### *A few facts about* **IPM**

- Under an IPM program, pesticides are used **only** when warranted
- When pesticides are used, growers are required by law to follow manufacturers' strict instructions for their use
- Most crop protection products become inactive or are no longer present by the time an apple reaches your table



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