

accumulate	constant	organic	appreciate	persist	eliminated
traces	option	assessed	pesticide		

In the well-known song *Big Yellow Taxi*, the singer asks a farmer to “put away the DDT.” DDT is a _____ —a chemical compound¹ used to kill insects. Farmers throughout the world spray pesticides on their growing crops to keep bugs and other insects away. In the past, DDT was considered a safe pesticide. It was sprayed directly on children to kill insects and was even used to help make wallpaper for bedrooms. Since then, DDT has been _____ by scientists. After years of testing, scientists concluded that DDT was harmful to humans, birds, insects, and even some other kinds of animals. Farmers in many countries stopped using DDT after they learned it could be harmful. However, DDT was not _____ from the environment. According to scientists, DDT _____ in the environment for many years. _____ of the pesticide have been found in soil, animals, and in humans all over the world.

In the past several decades, more and more markets have been offering shoppers the _____ of fruits and vegetables grown without pesticides or other chemicals. There is a growing number of people who _____ these _____ fruits and vegetables. People who buy organic food fear that the _____ consumption of food grown with pesticides could be dangerous to their health. They worry that, little by little, small amounts of dangerous chemicals will _____ in their bodies until the amount is large enough to cause health problems. Scientists are still researching the effects of pesticides on humans, but it is clear that the amount of organic food available is growing. According to the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, people around the world spent over \$50 billion on organic products and food in 2010.