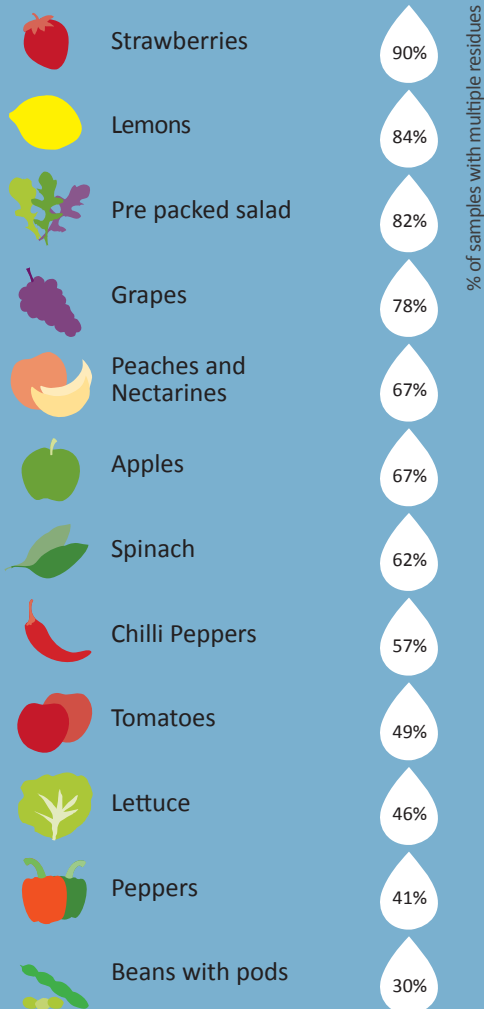


DIRTY DOZEN

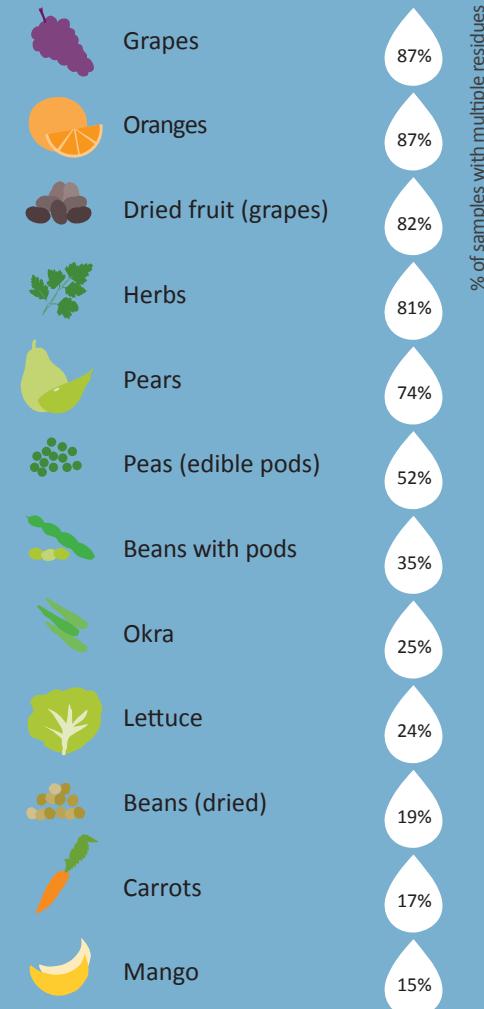
The Dirty Dozen is based on PAN UK analysis of the UK government's pesticide residue testing programme. The government tests around 3,000 kilograms of food annually, with the list of produce selected for testing changing every year. The tables below reveal the fruit and vegetables most likely to contain more than one pesticide in 2019, 2020 and 2021 (the most recent year for which data is available). PAN UK has focussed on these pesticide cocktails because governments only set safety limits for one pesticide at a time, despite evidence that chemicals can become more harmful when combined.

Do stick this list in your back pocket to help you make shopping decisions.

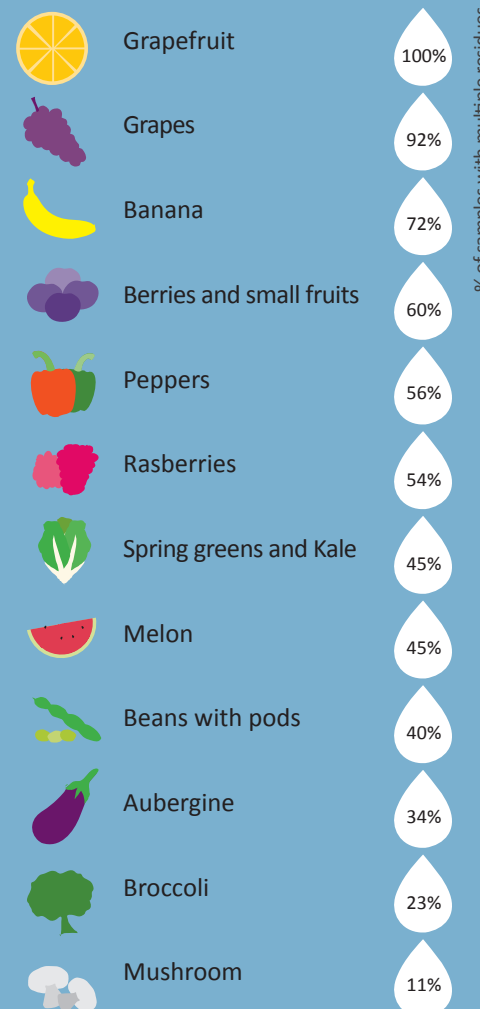
2019



2020



2021



WHAT ARE PESTICIDES?

Pesticides are poisons designed to kill living organisms. 'Pesticides' is the umbrella term for thousands of different active substances designed to kill plants (herbicides, commonly referred to as weed killers), insects (insecticides or bug killers), and mould and fungus (fungicides). All three of these groups of pesticides are used to grow the food we eat. Crops are often sprayed many times during a growing season; – as many as 20 different chemicals can be applied to wheat for example.

Certain groups of people are more susceptible to the effects of pesticides, especially young children and expectant mothers. Exposure to certain pesticides at critical stages in development can interfere with particular organs and their functions. Of particular concern are endocrine disrupting chemicals which affect hormone systems and have been associated with learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, and cognitive and brain development problems.



WHAT IS PAN UK DOING?

We are campaigning for a massive reduction in pesticide-related harms to both human health and the environment. This includes making sure that UK farmers have the support they need to reduce their pesticide use and working with supermarkets to tackle pesticide harms linked to their global supply chains. Sign up to follow our work at: www.pan-uk.org

