

## **The Use and Importance of Adjuvants and Soil Conditioners to the Agricultural Chemical Industry**

The term “adjuvant” refers to a material added to a tank mix to aid or modify the action of an agrochemical or the physical characteristics of the mixture. For example, some adjuvants improve the performance and effectiveness of pesticides by helping the pesticides adhere to leaf surfaces. Other adjuvants help pesticides spread evenly across leaf surfaces or reduce pesticidal spray drift. Currently, only a limited number of States regulate adjuvants<sup>1</sup>.

“Soil conditioners” are materials applied to soil that improve the horticultural or agronomic conditions of the soil structure or soil chemistry. For example, a soil conditioner may help improve the conditions around a plant’s root structure in order to facilitate plant growth.

The importance and benefits associated with the use of adjuvants and soil conditioners are clear. These materials reduce the need and extent of pesticide applications thereby helping to reduce risks associated with unintended human exposures and adverse environmental effects.

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<sup>1</sup> States that regulate adjuvants: California, Washington, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, Utah, Wyoming and Idaho.