

# DIRTY DOZEN



Grapefruit

99%



Soft citrus  
(e.g. mandarins, satsumas)

96%



Strawberries

89%



Oranges

87%



Dried grapes  
(e.g. sultanas, raisins)

82%



Herbs

81%



Pre-packed salad

81%



Grapes

80%



Lemons

75%



Pears

69%



Peaches and nectarines

67%



Spinach

57%

% of samples with multiple residues\*



## INTRODUCTION

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](http://www.pan-uk.org)

The Dirty Dozen is based on PAN UK analysis in September 2021 of the UK Government's Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF) annual reports from 2018, 2019 and 2020. We have analysed and collated three years' worth of data to provide consumers with a clearer picture of which UK produce is most likely to contain the highest levels of pesticide residues.