

crops, some of which are of relatively low value.

The CAST report (1980) gives considerable weight to the banning in alternative systems of fungicides in production of some fruits and vegetables, including peaches, pears, apples, strawberries, potatoes, onions, tomatoes, eggplant, celery and squash. According to the report, foliar fungicidal sprays are the only feasible means of disease control for these plants. The inability of alternative farming systems to use these sprays thus puts them at an economic disadvantage in the growing of these crops.

The CAST report also notes that pesticides make it possible to control disease and insect damage in fresh fruits and vegetables after harvest, making it possible to store and ship them over longer distances than is feasible for the same crops grown organically. The potential market for the conventionally grown crops, therefore, would be larger.

Whether the refusal of alternative farmers to use inorganic fertilizers contributes to their generally lower yields is uncertain. The literature we reviewed gives conflicting accounts of this. Power and Doran (1984) assert that information about the sources of nutrients in alternative agriculture is limited, although there is agreement that the major sources are manure and crop residues. Harwood (1984) presents data from the Rodale farm in Kutztown, Pennsylvania which he asserts indicates that "the potential for meeting crop nitrogen needs from legumes in rotation has been grossly underestimated by American scientists" (p. 67). Harwood provides no support for this assertion, however. Corn yields on the Kutztown farm average about 30 percent above the state average according to Harwood even though the farm has been operating with "minimum inputs" for over 10 years.

The findings of Papendick et al (1987) support those of Harwood. They assert that on many organic farms legumes supply most if not all the nitrogen needed for the entire rotation. Any nitrogen deficit from this source