

MOST*



Pesticide Pollution

Materials



- Large pan or tray (something shallow like a pie pan or 13x0 pan is best)
- Cotton balls, cotton pads, or uncooked rice
- 1 spray bottle, filled with water
- 1 large cup or pitcher, filled with water
- Food coloring
- Plastic gloves (optional)

Instructions **1** Fill the pan with a 1-inch layer of cotton or rice. This is your soil or crop field.

2 Add a few drops of food coloring to the water in one of your spray bottles, replace the lid, and shake gently to mix. Set the second spray bottle aside. The food coloring represents the pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals added to protect crops from insects and disease.

3 Spray the colored water evenly over the surface of the crop field. Make some observations: what is happening to the water? How does the cotton/rice look different?

4 For the final test, pour water from your large cup/pitcher on the cotton/rice, thoroughly dousing it. It is raining on our crop fields!

5 Now use a strainer or colander to separate the water from the cotton/rice. What color is the water that gets strained out? What does this mean? What does this tell us about the pesticides and fertilizers that we use on our crops?

