

Toast to Good Luck and Modern Agriculture in the New Year!

One New Year's tradition that **transcends all cultures** is a toast! Powdery mildew has long plagued **wine-grape vineyards**, but farmers are able to fight fungus with fungicides. Without the use of crop protection, powdery mildew can affect up to 80 percent of wine grapes.¹



At the stroke of midnight, revelers in **Spain** eat 12 **grapes**, one for each month of the New Year. Grapes face many insect threats, like the Japanese beetle and the grape berry moth, and experts estimate that 58 percent of grape yields would be affected without the use of insecticides.²



In southern **U.S.** states, people eat **collard greens** and **black-eyed peas** to invite good fortune. Farmers use pesticides to control black rot in collard greens to prevent crop losses of up to 50 percent.³ Pesticides protect black-eyed peas which face many disease and insect threats, like Southern blight.⁴



In **Brazil**, the New Year is celebrated with **red lentils**. Farmers use herbicides to control harmful weeds which can reduce lentil yields by 40-80 percent.⁵

Visit tellmemore.croplifeamerica.org to learn more about the benefits of modern agriculture.

1 <http://croplifefoundation.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/19-grapes.pdf>

2 <http://croplifefoundation.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/california.pdf>

3 http://ipm.illinois.edu/vegetables/diseases/black_rot/

4 <http://msucare.com/pubs/publications/p1535.htm>

5 <http://pesticideguy.org/2014/06/24/an-ancient-practice-on-an-ancient-crop-hand-weeding-lentils/>

