

# Beyond Heat: Propane Powers Organic Farming

Organic farmers have an uphill battle finding efficient and cost-effective production methods. And weed control is one of their most significant challenges. Recognizing the unique needs of organic farming, the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) has helped develop technology that generates flame or steam to control weeds without chemicals.



These new weed control methods are approved under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Organic Program Regulations and offer a number of agronomic and cost-saving benefits. Unlike mechanical cultivation methods, flame and steam weed control does not disturb the soil, so there's little risk of root damage or potential for soil erosion. In addition, moisture is conserved in the soil, and fewer dust particles are released into the air than with mechanical cultivation. It also reduces the labor costs of pulling weeds by hand.

More new, breakthrough technology will be available in the near future.

The new Batchen Stinger steam weed control machine is now being refined for the U.S. market. The Stinger generates and transfers an 800 degrees Fahrenheit steam to kill weeds.

The propane industry's developing technology benefits organic farmers in other ways, too. Another innovation developed by USDA engineers and currently being tested, uses hot air to defoliate cotton plants. This technology also eliminates many late-season cotton pests, including the silver-leaf whitefly. And using propane heat instead of chemicals allows growers to re-enter their fields in a matter of days instead of weeks.

Authorized by the Propane Education and Research Act in 1996, PERC is a nonprofit trade organization dedicated to promoting the safe, efficient use of propane as a preferred energy source. PERC is committed to supporting projects intended to benefit the U.S. agriculture industry.

Today, PERC is a proud supporter of the California Certified Organic Farmers association and continues to build on the environmentally friendly properties of propane to bring innovative solutions to organic farming. For more information on propane technology in agriculture, visit [www.agpropane.com](http://www.agpropane.com).



FOR MORE INFO, VISIT [AGPROPANE.COM](http://AGPROPANE.COM)

**PROPANE**  
EXCEPTIONAL ENERGY®

