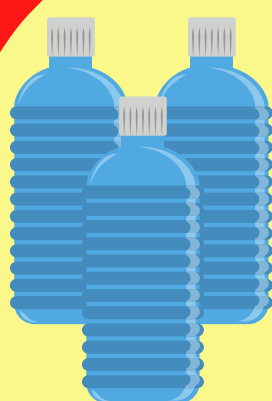


# Plastic and the Food Industry



Intensive industrial agriculture is needed to provide us with a lot of our favourite off-season fruits and vegetables - all year round. This constant demand has created a phenomenon called “plasticulture”, or the use of plastic in the agricultural sector

Plastic is used in everything from mulch to greenhouses as well as packaging and wrapping to protect the produce on its journey from field to fork.



The short-term benefits of using plastic in agriculture are many. It decreases the use of water and pesticides and increases yield and quality of the produce. It also helps prevent food waste.

But what about the long-term dangers of letting plastic infiltrate every aspect of the agricultural industry, when we know that plastic is severely polluting nature and might have adverse health effects?



Lab experiments have shown how lettuce wilts and grows less when exposed to microplastics and their even smaller counterpart - nanoplastics.

It is estimated that the level of microplastics in soil could be between 4 and 23 times higher than in the oceans.

Studies have shown clear evidence that beer, honey, salt, bottled and tap water all contain plastic particles.



Some estimate that we ingest as much as 50 000 microplastic particles every year.

It's time to ask...

**WHY PLASTIC?**