

Plant Protection Products (Pesticides)

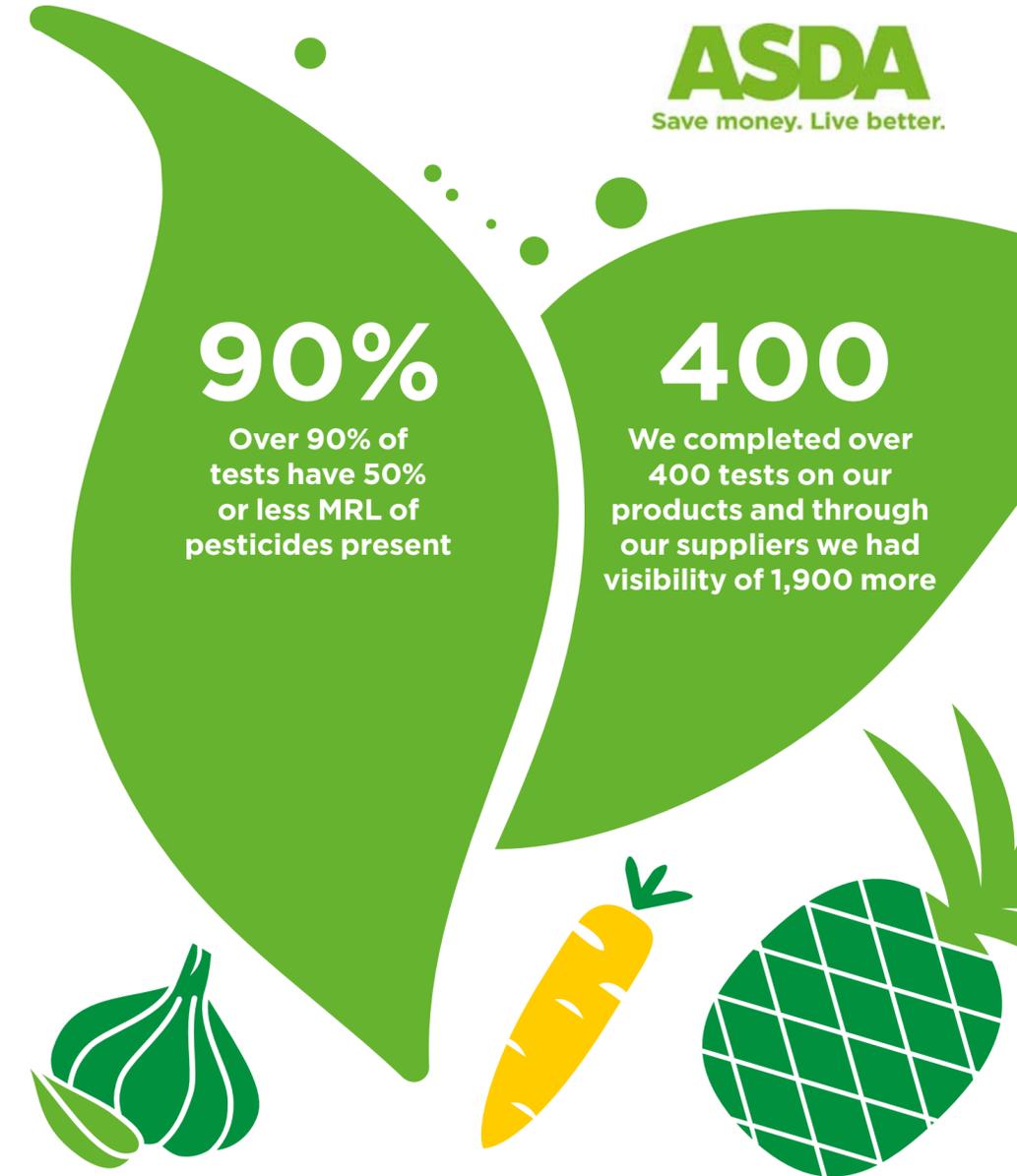
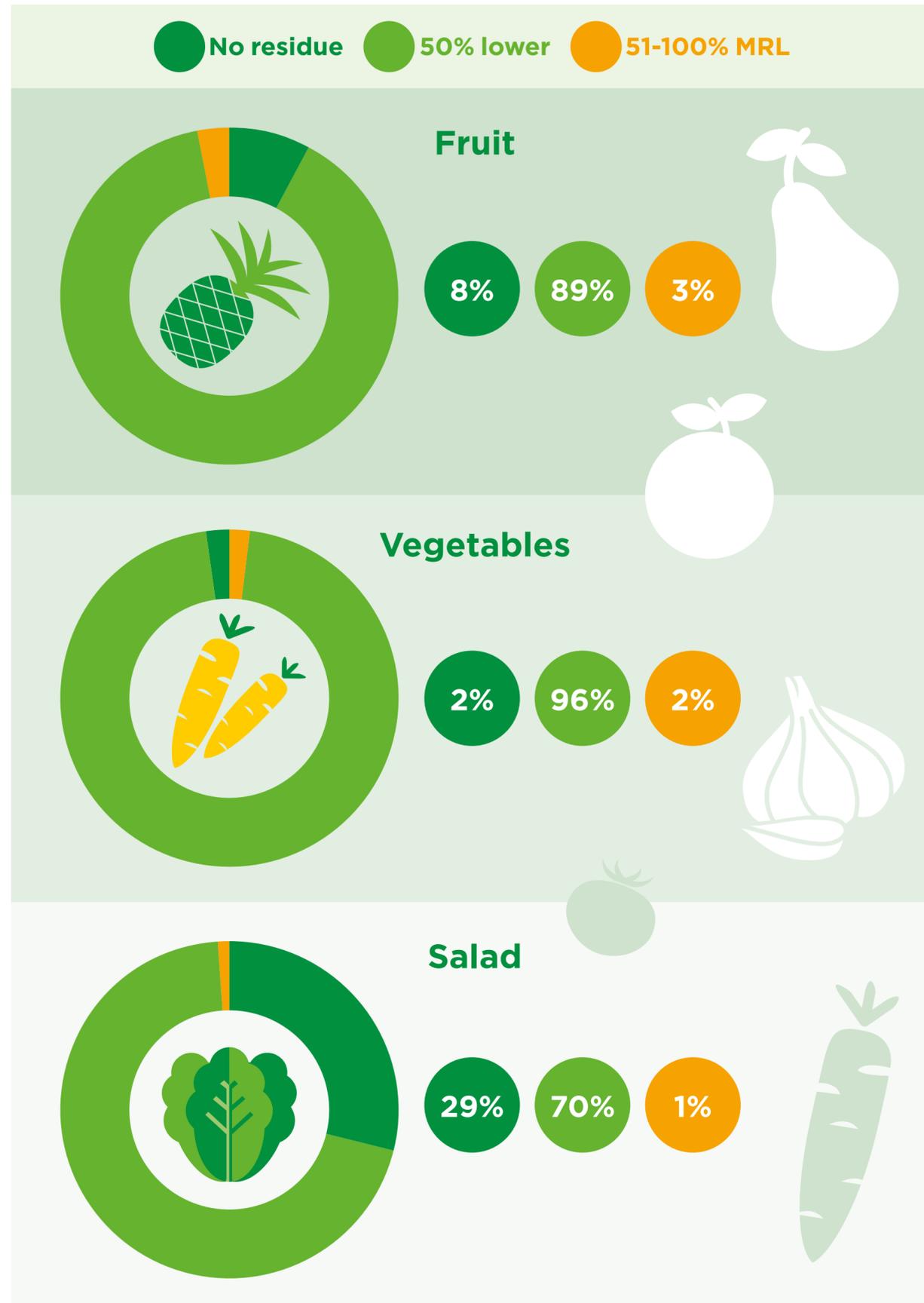
Pesticides are used to protect crops against insects, weeds, fungi and other pests. They play an important role in food protection. They protect crops against high levels of insects or fungi due to unforeseen weather or assist in improving yields. This is particularly important as the world's population continues to grow and demand for food of all types rises.

There are more than 1,000 pesticides used around the world each with different properties and toxicological effects. ASDA recognises the importance of monitoring and regulating pesticide usage in our food supply chain.

Plant protection products are used in scientifically defined procedures which farmers and growers follow. There may be traces of the applied products remaining on products. These are called residues. The World Health Organisation (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) develop acceptable daily intake levels which the European Union has now converted in to maximum residue levels (MRL). The MRL ensures that the amount of residues found in food is safe

for the consumer and is as low as possible. MRLs are calculated for each crop and chemical. They define the greatest amount of pesticide residue legally permitted to be present on crops when the chemical is used correctly. At Asda, we have a rigorous measuring programme for measuring MRL levels and in this report for the first time are going to share our findings.

As part of our testing if we detect an MRL that has exceeded the limit we will initiate a full investigation. We trace the product back to its source and the related farm/grower is isolated. We then work with the supply chain to analyse and identify any failures and put a remediation plan in place to make sure this doesn't happen again.



Asda supports the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in production of our crops. IPM aims to prevent and/or suppress harmful organisms by the use of; rotations, cultivation techniques, resistant/tolerant varieties and high health seeds, correct fertiliser, liming and irrigation.

We've committed to reduce the amount of harmful chemicals in our supply chain and are proud to say in 2018 we didn't have any recorded instances of WHO 1A, WHO 1B, Rotterdam convention or Stockholm convention chemicals in our supply chain.

We work hard with our supply chain partners to raise the awareness of the materials they are using and their impact on the natural environment.

It is important to work in balance on farms. We are concerned that populations of insects are supported. In the UK we've partnered with Syngenta and our potato growers to plant biodiversity plots. The initial results show an increase in predatory insect and pollinator species showing options for farmers to assist wildlife within farming systems.

We've worked to reduce and in 2018 removed active substances on the WHO 1A & 1B list and those covered by the Rotterdam and Stockholm convention