

## ASK MR. GREEN

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**Dear Mr. Green:** Lately I see more and more “organic” fruits and vegetables in the supermarkets. I’m confused. Often the organic apples or strawberries aren’t as shiny or as **large** as the regular ones, but they cost a lot more! So tell me, what exactly are organic fruits and vegetables? And why are they so expensive? Sincerely, **Confused Shopper**

**1- Dear Confused Shopper:** You're right. Sometimes **organic produce** doesn't look as nice as regular ones, and often costs twice much. Let me explain why. Since about 1950, farmers in the United States have used chemicals to **grow** their fruits and vegetables. They use pesticides to kill insects that eat their plants. They use herbicides to kill the weeds that kill their plants. These chemicals are a great help to farmers. By using them, farmers can grow more produce on the same amount of land. This means that shoppers can find more produce in the stores.

**6-** Farmers also use chemicals to make fruits and vegetables **ripe**. For example, while they are still green, and then put them in a box to go to a **supermarket**. The and get ripe because of a chemical that is in the box with them. **Because** some early, it can travel long distances to stores. As a result, we can find most kinds of vegetables all year long.



they often pick tomatoes green tomatoes turn red produce can be picked regular fruits and

**11-** Some people argue, however, that there are problems with using all these chemicals. When we eat produce, we're also eating a little bit of the chemicals. Small amounts of these are safe to eat. But larger amounts-a little bit every day- can cause illnesses. Many **scientists** believe that these farming chemicals cause cancer.

**14-** Herbicides and pesticides can also be very bad for nature. They sometimes kill animals such as fish and birds, and they can poison rivers that are near farms. Farm workers who pick the crops often get very sick from the chemicals. Because of problems like these, some farmers are going back to growing produce the old-fashioned way without chemicals. We call this kind of produce, **organic**.

**17-** *Organic* produce is more expensive than other produce for several reasons: For instance, many organic farmers can't grow as much produce as other farmers. Their farms are usually smaller, and, of course, they don't use herbicides and pesticides. Also, because they don't use ripening chemicals, their produce has to arrive at the stores very soon after it's picked.

**20-** So it is usually fresh, but this also costs money. Is it worth it? That's up to you to decide. But if you're not familiar with organic produce, you might want to try it. More and more shoppers are buying organic produce. Many of these shoppers say that they're not just concerned about their own health. They are concerned about the health of our whole world.

**GLOSSARY:** shoppers: compradores shiny: brillante weeds: maleza produce: productos, amount: cantidad, is it worth? ¿vale la pena?  
crops: cosechas, pick: recolectar, amount: cantidad, illnesses: enfermedades, poison: envenenar, ripe: maduro,  
old fashioned: a la antigua, concerned: preocupado, that's up to you: depende de usted, farming chemicals: químicos de agricultura

## WORKSHOP

1. A. The most adequate phrase to complete the title of the text would be: **ASK Mr. GREEN:**

a. Organic Produce, never?      b. Organic Produce, the best.      c. Regular produce, never ever.

B. The main idea of the text is organic food:

a. Organic food, expensive but the best.      b. Organic food, the most expensive.      c. Pros and cons of organic food.

C. Identify and circle the **five (5)** most specific words that appear on the text.

Sometimes, want, organic apples, problems, the, decide, herbicides, farmers, distances, fruit and vegetables, stores

D. What is the possible source of the text?)

2. Vocabulary: Choose the most adequate meaning for the following words that appear in the text

large (introduction)	. largo	. alargar	. grandes
produce. (line 1)	. produce	. producir	. productos
grow (line 2)	. cultivar	. crecer	. incremento
ripe (line 6)	. maduren	. abran	. suban

3 TRUE / FALSE: After reading the text, decide if the following sentences are T (true) or F (false).

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| a. Organic produce looks the same as regular produce.                  | T | F |
| b. Farming chemicals kill insects, but they don't kill fish and birds. | T | F |
| c. The shopper is confused because of the organic food flavor (sabor). | T | F |
| d. Regular produce often must arrive at stores rapidly.                | T | F |

4. Mr. Green discussed in his answer all the following ideas, **except one**, Circle it.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. How much organic fruits and vegetables cost.     | c. The kinds and names of insects that can destroy crops. |
| b. The use of chemicals in growing regular produce. | d. Why regular produce may be bad for your health.        |

5. Answer **in Spanish** the following questions about the reading.

- a. **When** and **where** did farmers start to use farming chemicals in growing plants?
- b. What color are **ripe tomatoes**?
- c. What are the names for **insect killers** and **herb killers**?
- d. What 's the biggest problem to eat **large quantity** of farming chemicals?

6. A- References: say what do the following words refer to

- a. In line 2 they refer to:
- b. In line 4, them refers to

B. Word formation. Analyze the words that are in square. Identify and write **the suffixes**

Word	suffix	Spanish meaning
organic (L-1)		
supermarket (L- 7)		
scientists (L- 12)		

7. Give a definition for organic food. Use the following words for the general and specific class

**with/ no/ produce/ natural/ it/ chemicals/ is a**

TERM:

GENERAL CLASS

SPECIFIC CLASS:

**8.** Write two characteristics of the organic food and two of the regular food

**a. Organic food:**

**b. Regular food:**

**9.** Traduzca del español al inglés las siguientes oraciones.

**a.** Los granjeros han usado pesticidas y herbicidas para matar los insectos que se comen las plantas.

**b.** Nosotros no hemos comido comida orgánica

**c.** ¿Mr. Green ha vendido productos orgánicos?

**d.** Yo comí una fruta orgánica esta mañana.