

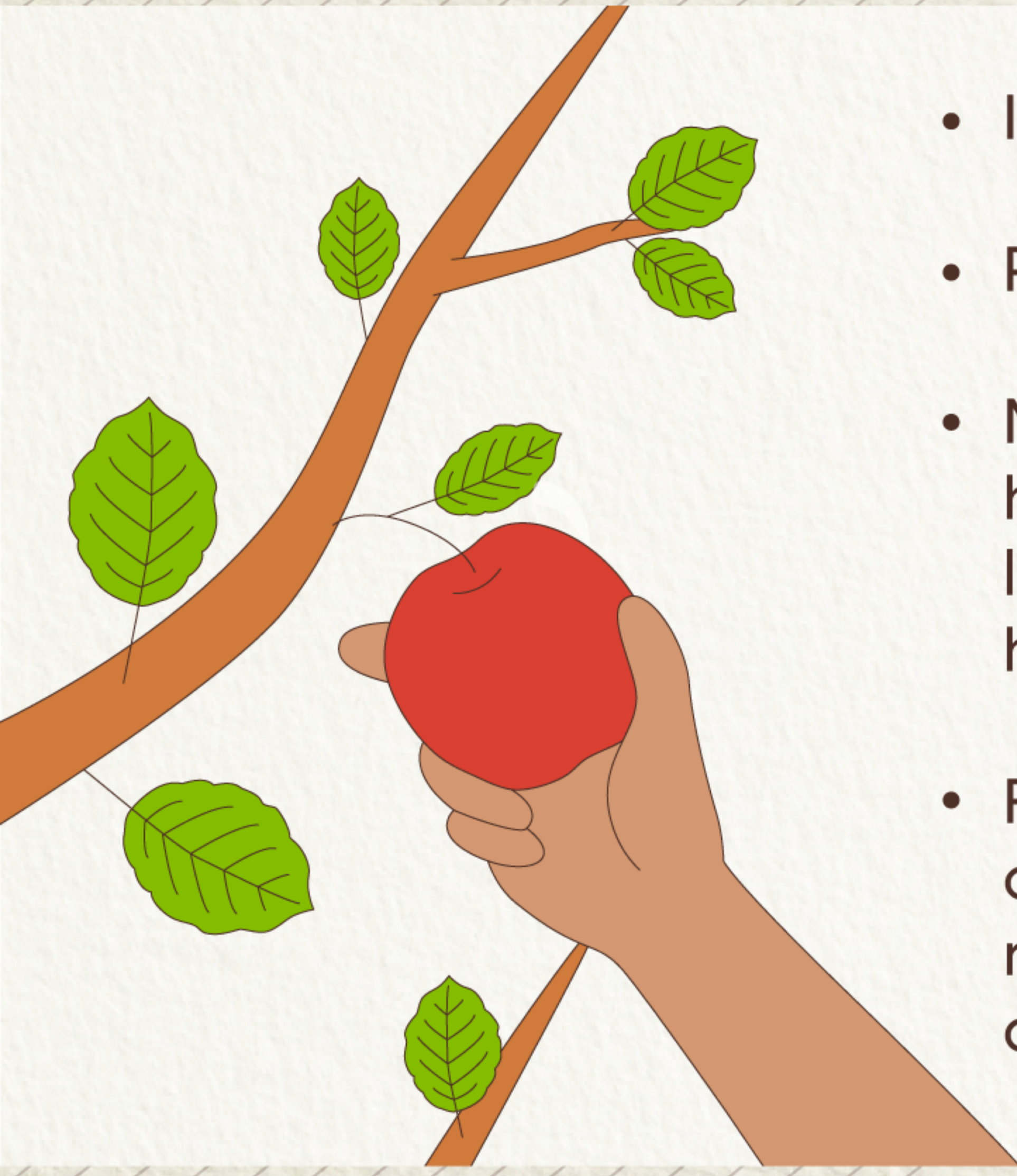
# How to Answer 5 Pesticide Misconceptions



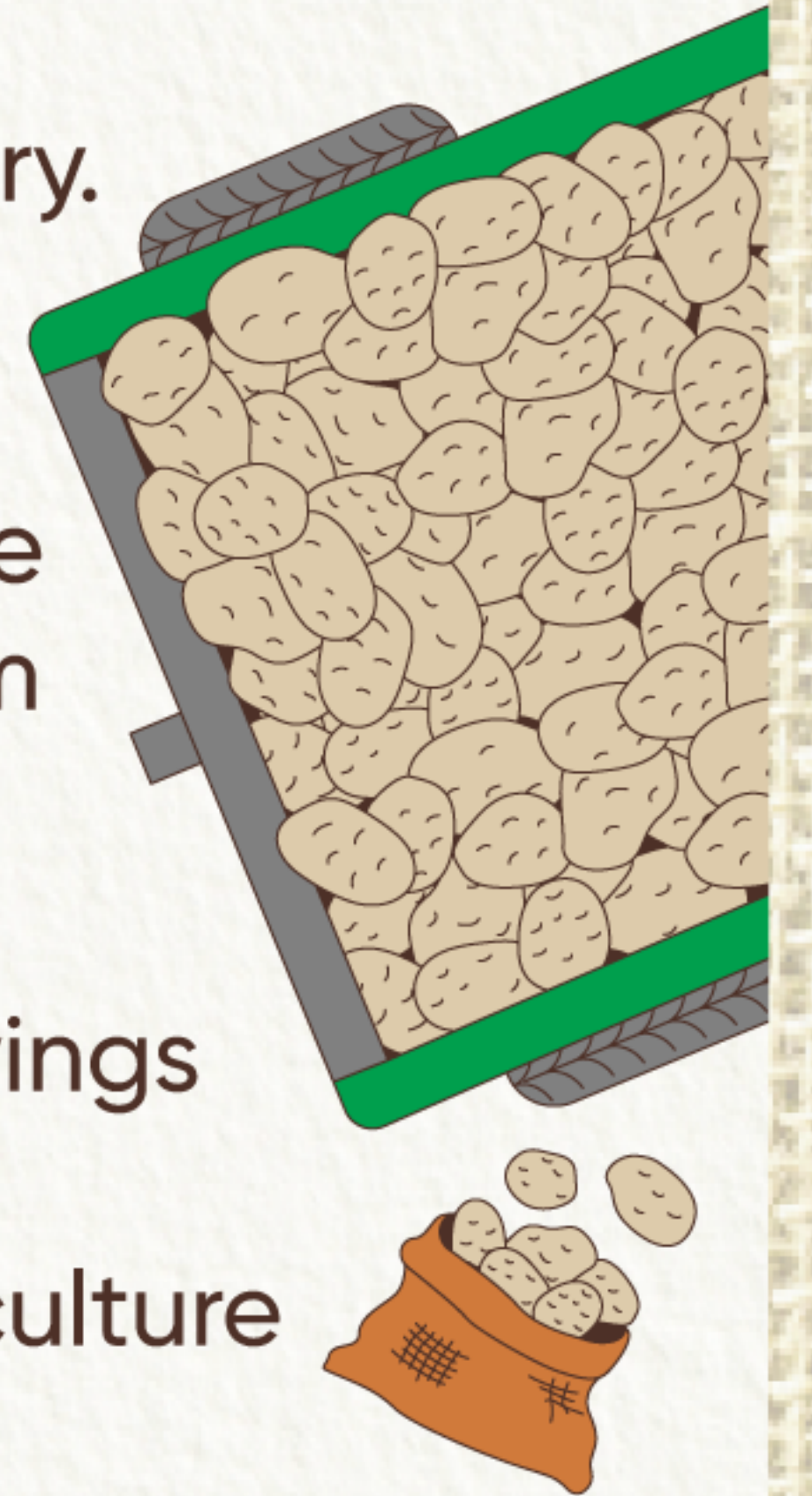
When you're faced with concerns about pesticide use in fruits and vegetables, be open to listening. Then use the following facts to help guide your discussion and put misinformation and fears to rest.

## MISCONCEPTION #1

**Some people may say: Fruits and vegetables that have been treated with pesticides aren't safe to eat.**

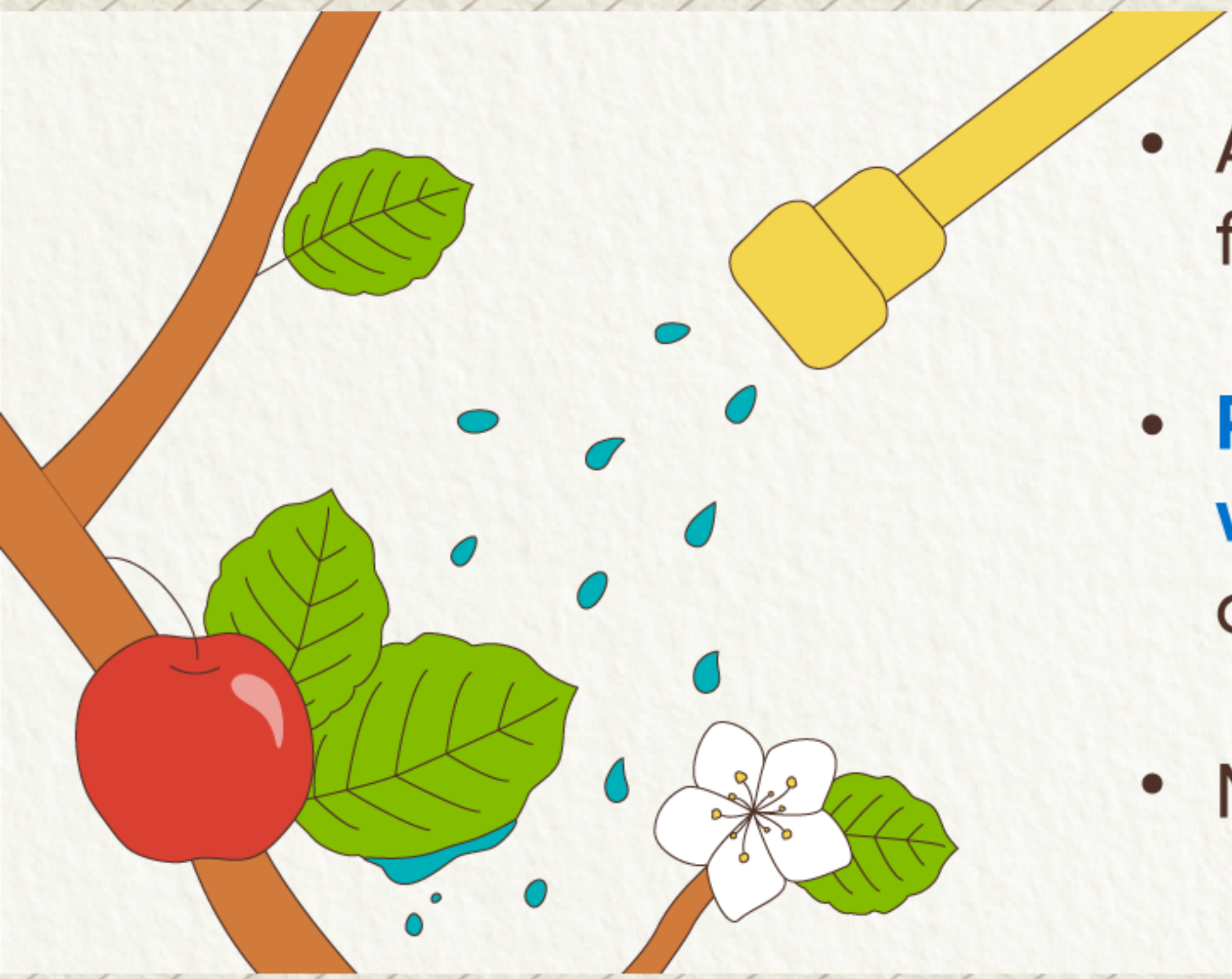


- It's highly likely we all eat produce protected by pesticides.
- Pesticides are highly regulated for safety in every country.
- Most crop protection products leave **no residues** on harvested fruits and vegetables, and maximum residue limits are much lower than what could potentially harm human health.
- For example, in one day, a woman could eat 3,671 servings of potatoes that have the most pesticide residue ever recorded for potatoes by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and still see no effects.<sup>1</sup>



## MISCONCEPTION #2

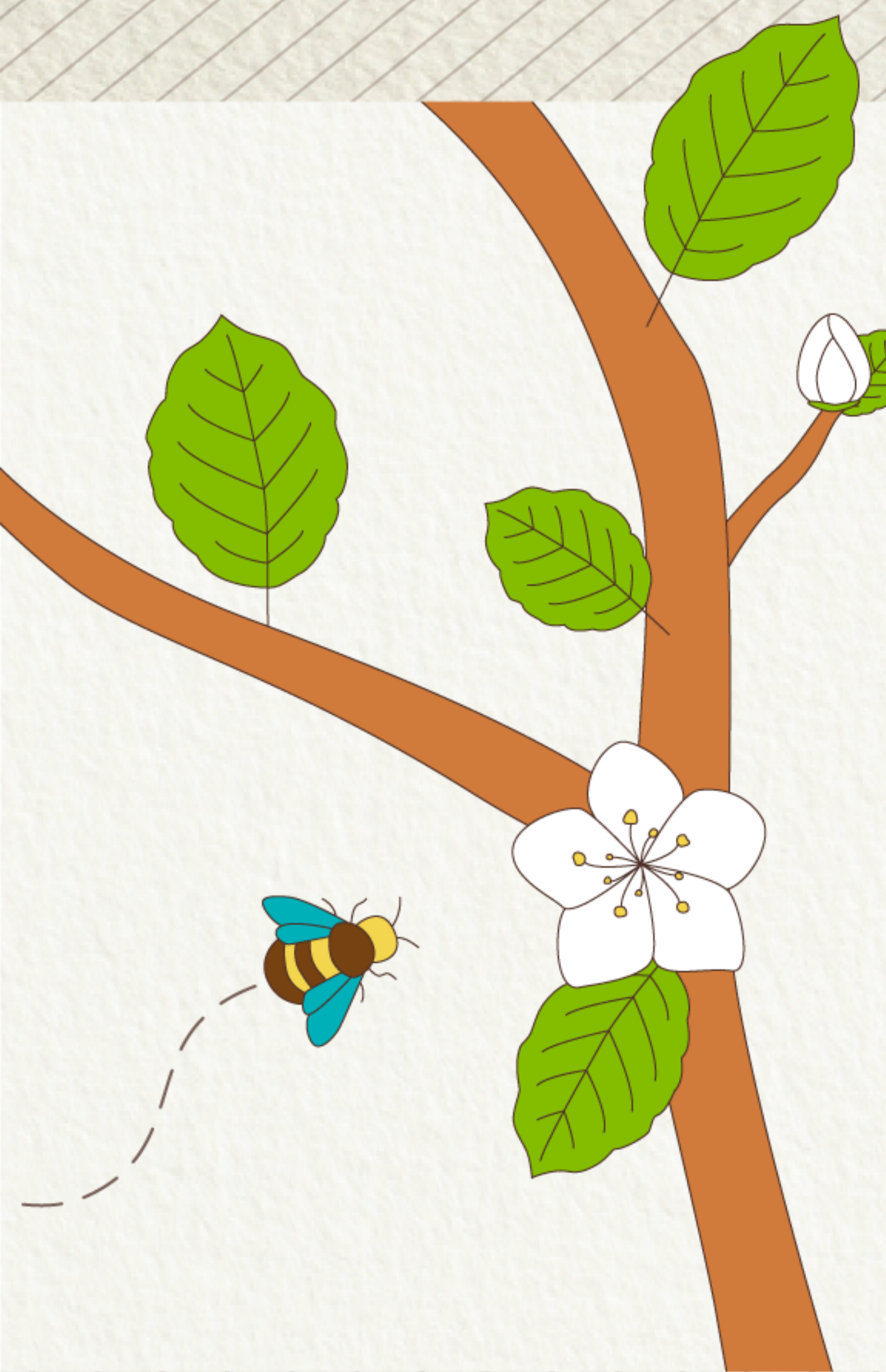
**Some people may say: No one knows what's in the pesticides being sprayed on foods.**



- Any pesticide farmers use has been highly tested and regulated for safety to humans and the environment.
- **Pesticide labels, which serve as legal regulations, specify how, when and where products can be used.** Additionally, there are controls set through food safety and agriculture authorities.
- Most of what is seen being sprayed on crops is water.

## MISCONCEPTION #3

**Some people may say: Spraying pesticides is bad for the environment.**

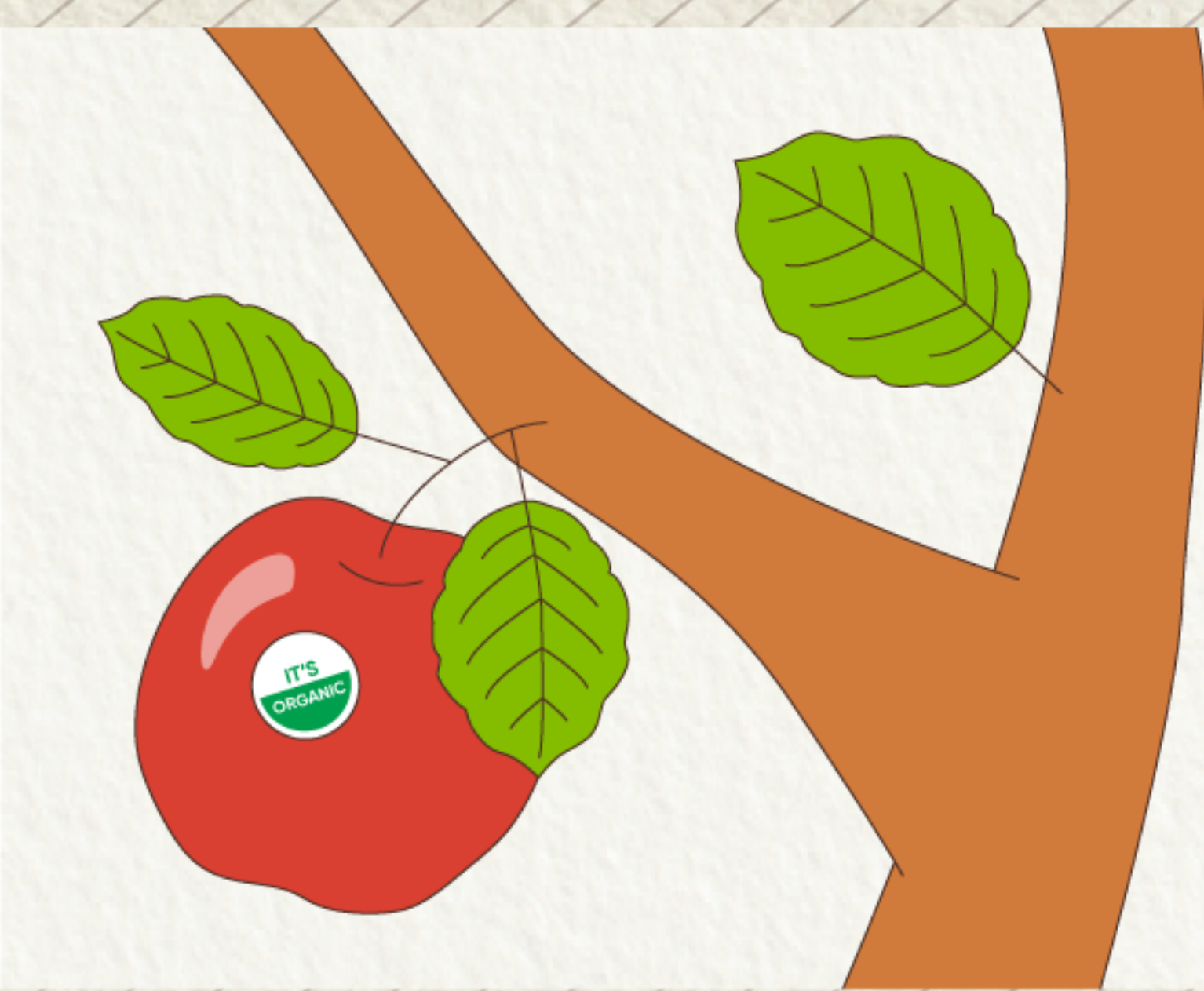


- Today's pesticides are designed to minimize impact on the environment.
- Products are designed to be effective at lower use rates, to break down rapidly and to be highly targeted to specific pests.
- **Regulatory testing and pesticide application ensure safety for use around beneficials, including pollinators.**
- Pesticide use can also help farmers leverage other sustainable management practices, such as reduced tillage or cover crops.



## MISCONCEPTION #4

**Some people may say: Organic farmers don't use pesticides.**



- All farmers take steps to protect their crops from pests.
- **Organic farmers often use pesticides** that are approved based on certain organic production criteria. For example, Qalcova™ active is a naturally derived insecticide approved around the world for use in the organic production of crops such as apples.

## MISCONCEPTION #5

**Some people may say: Farmers don't really need to use pesticides. People don't care if their produce has a few blemishes.**



- **Pests affect more than the look of produce.** They can impact crop yield, flavor, nutritional content and, in the case of certain fungi, food safety.
- When yields are reduced, consumers face higher prices and fewer choices.
- Pesticides allow farmers to grow more with less while also meeting high standards for taste, nutrition, price and appearance.



<sup>1</sup> Alliance for Food and Farming. "Safe Fruits and Veggies." 2023. [safefruitsandveggies.com/calculate](https://safefruitsandveggies.com/calculate).

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