

Use of GM cotton linked to rise in aphid numbers

The following is an excerpt.

In an unexpected trade-off, the cultivation of cotton that has been [genetically engineered](#) to reduce caterpillar damage by producing its own insecticide has been linked to higher numbers of another pest — aphids.

Previous studies had linked the increase in aphids to reduced insecticide use by farmers cultivating Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) cotton.

Now researchers have for the first time tied the suppressed production of natural defence compounds in Bt cotton — caused by the lack of caterpillar attacks — to a surge in non-target pests such as the cotton aphid.

Read the full article here: [Use of GM cotton linked to rise in aphid numbers](#)