

## Herbicides aren't sole culprit in Monarch butterfly decline

Monarch butterflies [are vanishing](#). Over the last 20 years, fewer and fewer of them have been making the long journey down to Mexico to survive the winter. By one count, their numbers have shrunk as much as 90 percent.

In recent years, some experts [have blamed](#) the decline of the monarch butterflies on the rise of new soy and corn crops that are genetically modified to be resistant to herbicides — such as Monsanto's Roundup. The idea is that this leads to heavier herbicide use, which in turn kills more milkweed.

But not everyone's convinced that herbicides are the sole reason for the decline of native plants near agricultural fields. Another [recent study](#) by scientists at the US Department of Agriculture and Penn State found that herbicide-tolerant native plants around farmland in Pennsylvania were declining at the same rate as less-tolerant plants. That suggests that other factors may be at work here.

**Read full, original article:** [Monarch butterflies could be declared an endangered species. Here's what that means.](#)