

How Monsanto's 'big bet' on dicamba tolerant GMOs may have backfired

. . . . Back in April, [Monsanto] bet big on dicamba, [announcing](#) a \$975 million expansion of its production facility. . . The chemical is the reason the company launched its new . . . Xtend soybean and cotton seeds, genetically engineered to withstand both dicamba and . . . glyphosate. . . .

. . . . The company elected to release . . . Xtend soybean and cotton seeds this spring, even though the EPA has not yet signed off on . . . a new dicamba formulation. That was a momentous decision, because the dicamba products currently on the market . . . have a [well-documented tendency to vaporize. . .](#) and drift . . . killing other crops. Monsanto's new dicamba, tweaked with what the company calls "VaporGrip" technology, is supposedly [much less volatile](#).

The trouble is that farmers. . . jumped at the new seeds, and evidently began dousing crops with old dicamba formulations as a way to knock out those glyphosate-tolerant weeds. Oops.

For its part, Monsanto [says](#) it expects the EPA to approve the new. . . dicamba formulation in. . . 2017. . . . If the VaporGrip formulation does indeed control volatilization. . . the drift incidents . . . will soon just be a painful memory. . . If not, they portend yet more trouble ahead for the PR-challenged ag giant.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [Monsanto Just Made a Massive Mistake](#)