

Activist group Friends of the Earth study reports farms 48 times more toxic than 25 years ago, blames neonicotinoids

[T]he United States' agricultural landscape is 48 times more toxic to insects than it was 25 years ago. Per a new study published in the journal [PLOS One](#), a single culprit—a class of pesticides known as [neonicotinoids](#), or neonics—accounts for a staggering 92 percent of this fatal uptick, which arrives at a point when steep bug population declines have led some experts to warn of an impending “[insect apocalypse](#).”

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Kendra Klein, study co-author and senior staff scientist at [Friends of the Earth U.S.](#), says the team did not directly gauge what pesticides bees and other insects are exposed to.

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The most extreme predictions surrounding insects' decline tend to be highly exaggerated: A [study](#) published earlier this year, for example, posited that 41 percent of insect species are declining and global numbers are dropping by 2.5 percent annually. But as [Michelle Trautwein](#) of the California Academy of Sciences tells the [Atlantic's](#) Ed Yong, the researchers behind the findings are “trying to quantify things that we really can't quantify at this point.”

Read full, original article: [Toxic Pesticides Are Driving Insect 'Apocalypse' in the U.S., Study Warns](#)