

# Don't Believe the Hype

## Busting myths about GMO crops.

Biotech corporations aren't just engineering crops – they're also engineering myths and misinformation about the need, safety and environmental impacts of their products. Here are three of the top myths about GE crops... *busted*.



**MYTH #1: GE crops are safe.**

**FACT: The widespread adoption of GE crops has caused pesticide use to skyrocket, and pesticides are, by definition, made to kill.**

The use of glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, on corn and soybeans increased from 10 million pounds in 1995 — the year “Roundup Ready” crops were introduced — to 204 million pounds in 2013, a 20-fold increase, according to the USDA. The World Health Organization just declared that glyphosate is a probable carcinogen, so this massive increase in its use is, indeed, cause for safety concerns.

**MYTH #2: Genetic engineering is key to feeding a hungry world.**

**FACT: The vast majority of GE crops are engineered for just one thing: herbicide tolerance.** Five out of every six acres of GE crops grown worldwide are engineered for herbicide-tolerance, a nice way of saying they'll survive being drenched with what would normally be a toxic dose of herbicide, usually glyphosate. The majority of these crops are used to feed livestock, not humans.

**MYTH #3: GE crops are better for the environment.**

**Fact: Planting hundreds of millions of acres with herbicide tolerant crops has caused great harm to the environment.** Monarch butterflies have declined by 80 percent in the past 20 years and the massive increase in glyphosate use is a leading cause because it is a uniquely potent killer of milkweed, the sole host plant for monarchs. Concerning levels of glyphosate can be found in our waterways, food, and even in breast milk.

