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Diversity in farm landscapes helps wildlife, global study finds

Tridge summary

A study led by Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, has found that a diverse agricultural landscape, including a mix of crops and non-crop features, can increase wildlife biodiversity on farms. The research, published in Ecology Letters, suggests that this approach can benefit both the environment and farmers by improving crop yields through increased pollinators and predators of crop pests. The scientists highlight the importance of this finding for policymakers, land managers, and farmers in conserving agricultural biodiversity.

Original content

More diverse wildlife thrives on farms, benefiting both farmers and the environment, when there is variety in the agricultural landscape, a global study has found. Specifically, the types of crops and non-crop features on farms, as well as how they are arranged, should be varied, according to research led by Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore). The findings are published in the journal Ecology Letters. The optimum approach would be to grow different crops like vegetables, cereals and fruit trees on the same farm in varying field sizes and layouts, as well as have semi-natural landscape features that are not crops, like shrubs, grassy borders and strips of wildflowers. This variety increases the number of native animal and plant species such as pollinators and predators of pests, compared to agricultural lands that have just one type of crop grown on a single, uniform landscape. Such an improvement in biodiversity arises because variability in crops and non-crop ...

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