

Why is Jug Bay spraying the meadows with herbicides (not pesticides)?

A great and practical question. Working with our grant providers, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, we received this response from the team working on the ground to bring our meadows back to life.

"We are trying to restore the meadow that has been infiltrated by invasive vegetation like microstegium, garlic mustard, Japanese barberry, and porcelainberry. Native trees like sweetgum and loblolly pine were also infiltrating. All of this vegetation will outcompete the meadow we are trying to re-establish. To control any vegetation (especially invasives), it is important to prevent it from developing viable seed first and then control the plant. Late summer is when these invasives typically develop seed. The mowing we conducted in mid-July immediately set this process back, but it doesn't prevent the plants from going to seed later in the growing season. Herbicide treatments are then needed to control/kill the vegetation. New growth will be mowed/treated again to get the site ready for a fall planting. The control treatments provide the necessary site conditions for the new meadow to grow over the next few years. It certainly eliminates Monarch butterfly habitat opportunities for this year, but it does also help to ensure there will be high-quality habitat for Monarchs and a variety of other species for the longer term."