

Camo-cropping

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In news– A technique dubbed “camo-cropping” is undergoing trials in England as a means to confuse pests.

What is camo-cropping?

- Under this process **soil is being dyed red, blue and green to hide emerging sugar beet crops from disease-carrying aphids.**
- **The pests have become an increasing problem** for farmers in the absence of banned pesticides.
- It is hoped the **trial, held at Morley Farms in Norfolk, England,** will produce a **nature-based solution** to protect the sugar beet crops.
- **Food-based dyes are being used so they don't impact the quality of the crop.**
- The trial was led by the Norwich-based British Beet Research Organization.
- Under this system **farmers spray the soil, and the aphids flying over don't see the beet** coming through so they are flying past.
- While the beautiful pastel-colored fields may seem like a silly spectacle, farmers are hoping that the camo-cropping strategy will ultimately be just as protective as chemicals.