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It could dry up the Nile, hobble the Asian monsoon, and desiccate fields from Argentina to the Midwestern United States.

The impact of deforestation on rainfall is one of the most important non-carbon effects. Healthy forests release a range of volatile organic compounds that have an overall cooling effect on the climate, mostly by blocking incoming solar energy. Removing forests eliminates this cooling effect and adds to global warming. Meanwhile, lost forests are usually replaced by agriculture, which produces its own emissions. Altogether, the real contribution of deforestation to global climate warming since 1850 is as much as 40%.