

GMO Fact or Fiction?

Fact or Fiction?

GMOs are created by injecting chemicals into food AFTER it is harvested.

Fiction

GMOs are developed through genetic engineering where scientists identify and insert specific traits into the DNA of the seed before it is ever planted. The plant grows just like conventional (non-GMO) seeds. The transgenic trait is then transferred to other varieties through traditional cross-breeding.

See "The Life of a Seed-Jake, a GMO Seed"

Fact or Fiction?

After a GMO is developed, it is thoroughly evaluated by the USDA, FDA, and EPA to identify unintended consequences to the environment or to our health if consumed.

Fact

It takes many years for a GMO to be approved first for field testing and second for commercial production.

Fact or Fiction?

GMOs have bombarded the produce section of the grocery store. It is difficult to avoid GMO fruits and vegetables.

Fiction

There are only 10 approved varieties of GMO plants. Of those crops, 5 could be found in the produce section. They are sweet corn, papaya, potatoes, squash, and the Arctic apple. (The arctic apple won't be available on store shelves for a few more years)

Fact or Fiction?

The bulk of GM crops that are harvested in the US are for the use of livestock feed.


Fact

GM field Corn, Alfalfa, Soybeans, and the by-products of sugar beets and cotton harvested in the United States are all used to feed livestock.

Fact or Fiction?

If I purchase food labeled with the USDA Organic seal, I know these products did not grow from a GM seed.

Fact



In addition to other growth and production requirements, foods with the "Organic" seal were not grown from GM seeds.

Fact or Fiction?

Using GM crop varieties in every country would be beneficial.

Fiction

Many third world countries do not have the technology and resources to utilize the benefits of GM crops. For example, if a farmer in another country does not have access to herbicides, using herbicide tolerant crops would not be beneficial.

Fact or Fiction?

The implementation of GM seeds over the last 20 years has increased the price of food.

Fiction

A study shows that the prices of corn, soybeans and canola would probably be 5-9% higher than if GM technology was not available to farmers.

The Production and Price Impact of Biotech Crops

Fact or Fiction?

Health studies about the safety of consuming GM crops are less than 20 years old.

Fact

GM crops have only been in production since 1996. While studies have shown they are safe, their scope is limited to the amount of time they have been in production and use.

Fact or Fiction?

GMOs are NOT directly linked to being a cause for cancer.

Fact

GM crop varieties pose no greater risk of increasing the risk of cancer than their conventional counterparts.

*A decade of EU-funded GMO Research
Compilation of Research on GM Crops*

Fact or Fiction?

Studies show that GMOs are linked to an increase in allergies.

Fiction

90% of all allergies are caused by peanuts, tree nuts, milk, eggs, wheat, soy, shellfish, and fish. To date, only soy even has a GM variety. See more explanation:

Are GMOs causing an increase in allergies?

Fact or Fiction?

GMOs are contributing to the death of butterflies.

Fiction

Butterflies would need to eat the Bt found in GM crops to have it kill them. Butterflies are not pests, and therefore do not feed on the actual plants.

Dominic Reising, North Carolina State University

Fact or Fiction?

*There aren't any known environmental risks
to producing and growing GM crops.*

Fiction

Potential environmental risks are known, which leads to monitoring and testing before approval of a new GM crop. Scientists monitor GM crops to watch for unintended consequences that could be seen long term such as herbicide tolerance, biodiversity concerns, and effect on non-target organisms.