

GE Crops and Foods (On the Market)

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July 29, 2011: [Consumer Advisory: GM Sweet Corn in Canada](#)

It has been 15 years since genetically engineered crops and foods were first introduced into Canada. **But only 4 GE crops are currently grown in Canada:**

- [canola](#)
- [corn](#)
- [soy](#)
- [sugar beet \(white sugar beet for sugar processing\)](#)

These crops are engineered to be either insect resistant or herbicide tolerant, and many now carry both traits. We could also be importing a small amount of **GM papaya, squash, cottonseed oil and milk products** from the US.

Though the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Health Canada have approved over 50 varieties of 12 GE crops and foods under their category of "Plants with Novel Traits" and "Novel Foods", not all of these are products of genetic engineering. Furthermore, many GE crop varieties listed are not currently on the market in Canada (such as GE potatoes and tomatoes). See the below lists for the exact breakdown of what genetically engineered seeds farmers in Canada are planting and what GE foods are on grocery store shelves.



[Click here for the chart of GM foods in Canada.](#)

[Click here to download CBAN's Quick Guide to GM Foods.](#)

GE Crops Globally

2011: GM crops (predominately corn, soy, and cotton) are still confined to a handful of countries with highly industrialized, export-oriented agricultural sectors. Nearly 90% of the area planted to GM crops in 2010 was found in just five countries in North and South America, with 78% in the US, Argentina and Brazil. One country alone, the United States, plants 45% of the world's GM crops.

GE Crops in Europe

2011: The only GE crop currently cultivated in the EU is Monsanto's insect resistant (Bt) corn (MON810). In 2010, GE corn was produced in the Czech Republic, Spain, Portugal, Romania, and Slovakia on a cultivation surface of about 82,000 hectares, a 13% decrease compared to 2009. Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary and Luxembourg have all banned the use and sale of the MON810 GE corn due to concerns about its long term effects.

- No
- 10
- Yes
- Yes