

GMOs: Fact vs. Fiction



What are GMOs:

An organism whose genetic material has been altered using genetic engineering techniques.

Why:

To enhance plant growth, nutritional value, resistance to pests, eliminate need for pesticide use, and to help plants survive in extreme environments.

Methods:

Viral Method - An E. coli virus infected with a positive characteristic derived from another organism. It's grown in a petri dish in an ideal environment and the seeds are then extracted.

Soil Method - Bacteria infects the soil, which in turn infects the crop.

Gene gun - It shoots gold particles with the modified DNA into the host cells.

Hype:

- They are unregulated and unknown
- They disrupt nature and hurt the environment
- There is an emergence of super weeds because of them
- They are unsafe and cause cancer
- They have unpredictable consequences



Truth:

- GMOs have been around for over 10,000 years
- Many organizations causing panic are strongly one-sided
- The hype isn't evidence based
- Not a single instance of harm to humans has been recorded from GMOs
- There are no credible environmental effects noted

For more information:

- <http://tinyurl.com/pzpw46>
- <http://seattletimes.com/flatpages/local/abcsofgmos.html>

GMO milestones

