
What do consumers think?

Right around the world consumers remain very sceptical about GM food. The official 2010 EU poll Eurobarometer showed 70% of EU citizens think GM food is “fundamentally unnatural”, 58% said GM food is “not safe for future generations” and only 22% said GM food is “safe for your health and your family’s health”.

All foods in the EU using GM have to be labelled, even in restaurants. This means very few foods in Europe currently contain GM ingredients. Companies know they have to give us what we want to feed our families – or we’ll buy something else.

What are other countries doing?

No GM wheat is approved anywhere in the world. Many countries, including Japan, Australia and Canada, are opposed to any kind of GM wheat because the market rejects it. For example the Australians won’t grow GM wheat because the Japanese won’t buy it.

The development of GM wheat in the UK flies in the face of very strong opinions in big wheat producing and buying countries saying “No”. The fact is we already have effective, safe non-GM ways to protect crops from aphids, so we don’t need to risk our markets or our countryside.

No GM wheat is approved anywhere in the world



We already have safe non-GM ways to protect crops

What can we do?

We need to send a strong message to the Government and regulators that we don’t want GM wheat. You can visit www.gmfreeze.org/gmwheatnothanks now to help:

- Sign our petition against GM wheat.
- Sign up to keep up-to-date and object to any future UK GM wheat trials or EU cultivation applications.
- Tell your MP and MEPs you don’t want GM wheat and won’t buy it. Tell them you do want a full liability regime for GM companies.
- Order more *free* copies of this leaflet for friends, local shops or groups.

Or send us your name and we’ll add you to the petition: GM Wheat? No thanks! I won’t buy GM wheat and don’t want it to put our countryside or markets at risk.

Name..... Email.....

Address & postcode

Send to GM Freeze, Rose Cottage, Farness, Poyntzfield, Dingwall IV7 8LY



GM wheat

What's happening and what you can do



GM wheat hasn't had any food safety testing



GM wheat raises new ethical concerns



We won't know if there is a problem until it happens

GM wheat: What's happening?

In September 2011 the UK Government ignored public and scientific objections by approving an application from Rothamsted Research to conduct an outdoor field test of genetically modified (GM) wheat in Hertfordshire. Planting is planned for Spring 2012 and again in 2013.

The GM wheat emits an alarm chemical aphids give out when they are under attack. Rothamsted Research hopes the chemical will drive aphids off the crop and draw aphid predators to the area.

Research shows this may not work – aphids may get used to the alarm and ignore it. Encouraging natural aphid parasites and predators in fields already works without the risks of GM.

Why should we worry about one test site?

Outdoor trials are a key step toward GM crops being approved for commercial cultivation. They are risky. GM wheat may cross-pollinate with nearby wheat crops, or grassy relatives like the arable weed couch grass.

The GM wheat hasn't had any food safety testing, so if it gets into the food chain it would disrupt markets – unauthorised GM is not allowed in food at any time. The risk is real. A US trial of GM rice contaminated global supplies in 2006, destroying export markets for years.

This GM wheat also raises new ethical concerns. It uses a synthetic version of a cow gene – the first animal gene inserted into a food crop.

We won't know if GM wheat causes a problem until it is happening, but by then it will be too late to get it back.

What will happen if GM wheat is ever grown commercially?

All products containing GM wheat will have to have a GM label. Restaurants will have to tell their customers if they use GM wheat in any of their food. Failure to label correctly is a criminal offence, and full traceability of ingredients is required to prove labels are accurate. If non-GM supplies are accidentally contaminated companies have to prove they tried to avoid GM or fall foul of labelling laws, and any contamination over 0.9% must be labelled, whatever the reason.

What happens if something goes wrong?

In 2010 hundreds of UK farms grew over 1.9 million hectares of wheat – equivalent to 90% the area of Wales. If GM wheat is approved and grown on just a few farms, it could cause problems:

- Aphids may be pushed onto neighbouring non-GM wheat crops.
- Any change in aphid behaviour could have big impacts on the wider ecosystem, especially on birds and insects that eat aphids.
- There will always be a chance of the GM wheat getting mixed into harvested crops during transport, storage or milling and processing of food or animal feed. In 2009 an unauthorised GM flax from Canada contaminated global supplies. No one is clear what went wrong, and it still isn't cleaned up.
- GM-free seeds are the only way to guarantee a GM-free crop, but keeping GM out of wheat seed would be very difficult if GM wheat is grown. The wind will always blow pollen, and people will always make mistakes. In 2010 the very first planting of GM Amflora potato in Sweden had to be destroyed because another GM potato was accidentally illegally mixed into the seed tubers, but no one knows how this happened.

GM foods get safety testing, but many independent scientists think harmful products could still be getting through. GM can be unpredictable and change the way natural genes work, but risk assessments do not fully test for things like long-term health impacts. Wheat intolerance is already a problem for many people, but we don't know how the GM wheat will affect them. So even if the GM wheat is approved as food, we won't know how safe it really is.

There is no law in the EU to hold anyone liable for any problems caused by GM food or feed. The main insurer for UK farmers will not provide cover for growing GM crops. If GM wheat contaminates the supply chain, farmers and food companies are likely to pick up the bill for testing, tracing and product recall, not the GM company.

Keeping GM out of wheat seed would be very difficult



GM can change the way natural genes work



GM labels may impact on sales

Cream Crackers

INGREDIENTS: Wheat Flour, Vegetable Oils (Palm Oil, Rapeseed Oil), Corn Glucose Syrup*, Malt, Yeast, Corn Starch*, Sea Salt, Calcium Carbonate, Soy Lecithin*, Leavening Agents (Ammonium Bicarbonate, Sodium Bicarbonate, Disodium Diphosphate), Flour Treatment Agent (Sodium Metabisulphite), Vitamin D. *Produced from genetically modified organisms.