



ISSUES & INFORMATION

24 March 2005

Fewer bees in GM crops, study finds

- The ecological dangers of genetically modified crops remain largely unresolved and a stronger research effort is needed to track possible environmental changes, Australian scientists have warned.

Fewer bees in GM crops, study finds

23 March 2005

The Canberra Times

The ecological dangers of genetically modified crops remain largely unresolved and a stronger research effort is needed to track possible environmental changes, Australian scientists have warned.

Their comments follow the issuing yesterday in Britain of the world's largest study of the ecological impact of GM crops, which revealed significant declines in bees and butterflies. But Bayer CropScience, a world leader in GM crop technology, claims the study is not a setback and proves there is little difference between GM and conventional crops.

The University of Queensland's Professor Myron Zalucki, a world authority on the impact of GM crops on America's monarch butterflies, said more research needed to be done to track the impact of GM herbicide-resistant crops on Australia's insects. "A lot depends on the crop and the area in which it is grown. The impacts of GM crops on butterflies and insects are far from resolved and a lot more work needs to be done," Professor Zalucki said.

The president of Australia's Concerned Farmers Network, Julie Newman, also warned that farmers had been advised GM canola would necessitate increased use of herbicides, such as 2,4-D which are toxic to native trees and wildlife and pose health risks to farmers.

"We are letting these crops out of the lab too early and a lot more caution needs to be exercised before we go ahead and contaminate the natural environment and the world's food supply," Ms Newman said.

After three years of studying more than 190 crops of canola, sugar beet and maize, the final results of the three-year British study found butterfly numbers dropped by 75 per cent and bee populations by 50 per cent in crops of GM canola, engineered to resist spraying of glufosinate herbicide.

"The implications are quite different for Australia because of the difference in weed species here," CSIRO Entomology assistant chief Dr Mark Lonsdale said. "In Britain, many of the weeds in farm crops are native plants, whereas most of our weeds are introduced species. It's conceivable that GM crops might affect native wildlife, but to establish that would require a massive research experiment to establish how biodiversity interacts with the farm crop system."

One of the authors of the British report, Dr Les Firbank, spent several weeks in Australia studying GM cotton crops at Narrabri with CSIRO Entomology staff. The GM cotton contains toxins derived from soil bacteria which are

LATEST NEWS

Search the archive:

Word/phrase



or by date

09 January 2007

GM CROPS STILL NOT PERFORMING

22 November 2006

Farmers blamed for own economic loss for getting crops contaminated

13 October 2006

No economic benefit with GM canola

12 October 2006

Monsanto posts bigger loss for 4th quarter

11 October 2006

Has the GM Bt cotton bubble burst?

11 October 2006

Sorry for delay in news updates

11 October 2006

GM crops are a liability not asset

11 October 2006

AUSTRALIAN SCIENTISTS DEVELOP NON-GM DROUGHT TOLERANT CANOLA

11 October 2006

Engineering crops, distorting trade

11 October 2006

Economic disaster with GM contamination

News archive

New

[AOF Contamination report](#)

[GM Canola Factsheet](#)

[History of how Bayer Cropscience caused contamination of non-GM canola in Australia](#)

1. Key issues

[Summary and Overview](#)

[10 main NCF concerns](#)

[Farmers misled](#)

[Q & A for school projects](#)

[What is the drive for GM crops?](#)

[Links to other issues](#)

[Scientific concerns summary](#)

[The future - 2020?](#)

[What is expected of non-GM growers in Canada](#)

[Beyond the Bulldust](#)

[*Unfair liability*](#)

[Pressures in GM debate](#)

[Questions regarding risk management](#)

2. GM crops banned

[Monsanto Crop Management & Resistance Management Plans](#)

[Why Australia is not prepared for commercial trials](#)

[Monsanto's GM Roundup Ready canola](#)

[Bayer Cropscience's GM Invigor canola](#)

[Where to now?](#)

[State legislation - moratoria](#)

3. Market issues

[Canola markets](#)

[Zero tolerance of GM contamination is market demand](#)

[Wheat will be impacted](#)

[Higher prices for non-GM canola](#)

[Contamination scare](#)

[affects market](#)
[Japanese requirements](#)
[Consumer polls & market rejection](#)
[Effects of GM contamination in canola](#)
[EU will not tolerate acceptance of tolerance levels](#)
[What our marketers say](#)
[How and when non-GM premiums started](#)

effective in controlling two native moths regarded as crop pests.

CSIRO Entomology senior scientist Dr Geoff Baker said a 15-year study at Narrabri has shown no evidence of a population decrease in the two moth species native budworm and cotton bollworm.

"This is one study, but more needs to be done. After these crops were released into the landscape, only limited research has been done on their broadscale ecological impact. "We need more information but the research dollars are not there."

Source: Genethics

[Print Version](#) 

About us

[Network Policy & Objectives](#)
[NCF Funding](#)
[NCF History](#)
[NCF profile: Julie Newman](#)
[NCF profile: Juliet McFarlane](#)
[Early work](#)

Canola

[What is canola?](#)
[Statistics - yields](#)
[Canadian farmers nervous about GM canola acceptance in Japan](#)
[Letter from Japan](#)

Coexistence & Segregation

[Crop Management Plans for non-GM grower](#)
[Farmer to farmer Hypothetical](#)
[Segregation and coexistence plans](#)
[Seed industry allows 0.5% contamination](#)
[Canadian grain segregation](#)
[Zero tolerance is market demand](#)
[European coexistence report](#)
[Identity preservation and segregation](#)
[What is expected of non-GM growers in Canada](#)
[Testing protocol](#)
[Labels for GM contamination](#)
[EU will not accept contamination](#)
[Proposed Stewardship Program for Canola](#)
[Contract harvester problems](#)

Consumer concerns

[Is GM food safe?](#)

[Churches - 10 reasons against GM](#)

[Scientific concerns](#)

[Cross Kingdom Breeding](#)

[Food safety testing inadequate](#)

[Environmental effects](#)

[13 Science based reasons for GM-free](#)

[Myths about the Digestion of Proteins and DNA](#)

[5 part series covering issues](#)

[Health Risk](#)

[Reason for Schools to ban GM Foods](#)

[Monsanto's feeding studies](#)

[FSANZ answers regarding food testing](#)

[Scientific report on safety testing](#)

[Trespass report](#)

[Scientific concerns](#)

[Consumer concerns summary](#)

[GM food lecture](#)

[Monsanto](#)

[Seeds of Concern](#)

[Public attitudes to GM food](#)

[Scrambling and gambling with the genome](#)

[L-tryptophan - A Deadly Epidemic](#)

[Protestors \(photos\)](#)

[GM health concerns in brief](#)

[Inadequate health testing for GM canola](#)

[Russian study showing high death rates in offspring](#)

[Pusztai debate](#)

[Hidden uncertainties - risks of GMOs](#)

[Study shows GM eating Americans sicker than non-GM eating English](#)

[Scientists see spike in kids' food allergies](#)

Contamination

[Contamination is uncontrollable \(photos\)](#)

[Gene transfer & cross-pollination](#)

[GM product recalls](#)

[Environmental contamination \(photos\)](#)

[Confronting contamination & co-existence](#)

[In vigor canola outcrossing](#)

[Gene Stacking = Super Weed](#)

[AOF contamination report](#)

[History of how Bayer Cropscience caused contamination of non-GM canola in Australia](#)

Corporate control

[Corporate control](#)

[Corporate Engineering in Public Debate](#)

[In \(Seed\) Bed Together](#)

Costs and liabilities

[Costs to non-GM farmers](#)

[Non-GM Liable for Contamination?](#)

[Liability issues associated with GM crops - AFFA](#)

[Supplying non-GM requires certification](#)

[Liability questions answered](#)

[More on liability](#)

[*Farmer liability*](#)

[Liability and GM crops](#)

Economics

[No economic benefit for farmers](#)

[Economic Recommendations](#)

[Economic Critique](#)

[Why has the OGTR ignored economics?](#)

[Australian farmers can not afford GM crops](#)

[What benefit?](#)

[Higher plant yields better or worse for farmers?](#)

[Effects of GM contamination in canola](#)

[Global seed industry concentration](#)

[Canada versus Australia comparison](#)

[No farmer economic gain for pharmaceutical crops](#)

Farmer attitudes

[Australian farmer surveys](#)

[Farm lobby group policies](#)

[Victorian ALP policy](#)

[GCA farm lobby group policies](#)

GM / Non-GM difference

[What is GM / Non-GM?](#)

[GM plant breeding not faster](#)

[Will the industry be in crisis without GM?](#)

[Why GM is different](#)

GM canola

[Will GM canola yield more in Australia?](#)

[Comparison between Canadian and Australian canola conditions](#)

[Are GM chemicals safer, cheaper or more efficient?](#)

[How much GM canola is grown in Canada?](#)

[Canadian and Australian canola statistics](#)

GM crops

[Public good or corporate control?](#)

[Misleading claims over GM](#)

[ISAAA GM crop areas misleading](#)

[Use of GM crops](#)

[GM crops and chemical use](#)

[Multiple spray applications vs yield penalty](#)

[Yield problems - links](#)

[GM cotton failures](#)

[Global yields](#)

[Pharmaceutical crops](#)

[Global Trends in GM Crops](#)

[Who benefits from GM crops?](#)

GM crops experience

[Canadian Farmers viewpoint](#)

[American farmers viewpoint](#)

[American Corn Growers experience](#)

[Argentina faces serious problems](#)

[Report on North American Experience](#)

[Canadian organic farmers](#)

[Argentina & GM soy - success at what cost?](#)

[How is industry managing non-GM now?](#)

[India, Bulgaria, Indonesia](#)

[Monsanto vs US farmers](#)

[Global GM adoption](#)

[US farmers warned of GM Liability](#)

[Farming news links](#)

[GM-growing US faces agricultural trade deficit](#)

[GM soy in US not considered food grade](#)

[Monsanto in Argentina](#)

[GM soy war in Paraguay](#)

GM wheat

[Learn more about GM wheat](#)

[Marketing systems for GM wheat](#)

[GM Wheat submission - food health](#)

[Report - Farmers lose with GM wheat](#)

[What our marketers say](#)

[Canadian Wheat Board position](#)

Honey issues

[Apiarist briefing](#)

[The impact of GM contamination](#)

[SA Apiarists briefing](#)

[Map SA & Vic](#)

How trustworthy is decision-making?

[Vested interests revealed](#)

[Why trust the regulatory process?](#)

[Sue Meek profile](#)

[Federal government pro-GM](#)

[Scientists influenced](#)

[Liability, GCA and legal action](#)

[Research manipulated](#)

[OGTR does not assess economics, segregation, chemical resistance, food testing etc.](#)

[Three faces of science fraud](#)

Insurance

[Insurance Council submission](#)

[Insurance avoid GM risk](#)

International Protocols

[World Trade Organisation](#)

[Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#)

[Free Trade Agreement](#)

[Farmers right to replant seeds](#)

[International agreements](#)

[GM labelling](#)

[WTO ruling does not prevent countries from](#)

[restricting or banning
GMOs](#)

Legal Issues

[Law](#)

[Copy of Technology User
Agreement](#)

[2003 Monsanto contract](#)

[GM Patents](#)

[Monsanto shoot
themselves in the foot
\(cartoon\)](#)

[Will law protect us from
contamination?](#)

[Summary of Supreme
Court hearing of Percy
Schmeiser](#)

[NSW Minister
guarantees farmers are
protected](#)

[AFFA-liability issues](#)

[US farmers sued](#)

[US farmers warned of
GM liability issues](#)

[GM Crops and farmers
Liability](#)

[Why is the non-GM
grower liable for
contamination?](#)

[Innocent farmer sued](#)

[Federal judge's opinion
shows understanding of
patented gene spread](#)

[Liability for non-GM
farmers](#)

[More on liability:](#)

[Liability and GM crops](#)

Legislation & Regulation

[Trials vs Commercial
Release](#)

[Bayer Cropscience
Invigor Canola approved
by OGTR](#)

[States impose
moratoriums in role to
protect economics](#)

[OGTR role](#)

[Gene Technology Act](#)

[GM canola trial locations](#)

[Victorian Moratorium](#)

[Australian GM status by
States](#)

[Federal candidate views](#)

[OGTR unapproved GM
canola trials](#)

[Gene Technology Act
Critique](#)

[South Australian Act](#)

[WA proudly GM-free](#)

[*State moratoria
legislation*](#)

[Gene Tech Act reviews
denies compensation](#)

[National Biotechnology
Strategy](#)

Links

[Genome Scrambling](#)

[Links](#)

[Links](#)

[Top 10 books on GM](#)

[Religious links](#)

Network action

[Invigor canola
submission OGTR](#)

[GM Zone proposal
submissions](#)

[GTGC submission
summary](#)

[NCF Newsletters](#)

[NCF Media releases](#)

[GTGC full submission](#)

[Roundup Ready
Submission OGTR](#)

[Network tours](#)

[pro-GM lobbyists attack
NCF](#)

[Pro-GM tantrums](#)

[Advertisement](#)

[Victorian farmer survey](#)

[NCF banner & flyer](#)

[Field day survey](#)

[Community monitoring
of GM Crop Trials](#)

[Letters to farmers](#)

[Gene Tech Act Review
Pt1](#)

[Gene Tech Act Reveiw
Pt 2](#)

[Gene Tech Act Review
Pt3](#)

[Bayer Protest](#)

[Bayers Response to NCF](#)

Organics

[Canadian organic
standard](#)

[American organic
standards](#)

Trials

[Victorian maps](#)

[Victorian sites - photos](#)

[SA trial photos](#)

[Trials summary](#)

[Topas 19/2
contamination](#)

[South Australia 2006
GM Trials](#)