



Route 66 to medical literature



DFGSM3 Free Ride - Saloon

GMOs, Herbicides, and Public Health

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1505660>

- ✓ the application of biotechnology to agriculture has been rapid and aggressive but the FDA does not require labeling of GM foods
- ✓ Sharp increases in amounts and numbers of chemical herbicides applied to GM crops
- ✓ Herbicide most widely used on GM crops just classified as “probable human carcinogen” and second one as “possible human carcinogen”
- ✓ Genetic engineering vastly expands traits that can be moved into plants and breeders can import DNA from anywhere in the biosphere
- ✓ Reports recommended development of new risk-assessment tools and postmarketing surveillance but these recommendations have gone unheeded.
- ✓ Herbicide resistance introduced into plants greatly simplify weed management
- ✓ Widespread adoption of herbicide-resistant crops has led to overreliance on herbicides and fields must now be treated with multiple herbicides
- ✓ Approvement of a new combination herbicide to be marketed with newly approved seeds genetically engineered to resist multiple herbicides
- ✓ Science and risk assessment supporting the decision are flawed: these studies predated current knowledge of low-dose, endocrine-mediated, and epigenetic effects and were not designed to detect them
- ✓ Time has come to reconsider all aspects of the safety of plant biotechnology
- ✓ Implementation of permission of the new combination herbicide should be delayed
- ✓ FDA should reconsider labeling of GM foods and couple it with adequately funded, long-term postmarketing surveillance

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