



What are GMOs?

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GMO stands for “genetically modified organism” and is sometimes referred to as genetically engineered (GE), bioengineered (BE) or genetically modified (GM).



What is a GMO?

A GMO has had its genetic makeup precisely changed by adding a new gene to it from another organism. The new gene (or in some cases a deleted gene) produces a helpful trait or characteristic in the new GMO, such as disease resistance, drought tolerance or improved nutritional value. Conventional breeding lacks this kind of precise control.

What foods are GMOs?

As of 2019, there are 11 commercially available GMO crops in the US.



- ◆ **Corn (field and sweet)**
- ◆ **Soybeans**
- ◆ **Cotton**
- ◆ **Alfalfa**
- ◆ **Sugar beets**
- ◆ **Canola**
- ◆ **Papaya**
- ◆ **Summer squash**
- ◆ **Innate^R potatoes**
- ◆ **Pink pineapple**
- ◆ **Non-browning ArcticTM apples**



Note: Only some varieties within this crop list are GMOs. Most corn and soybeans varieties are GMOs, but others only have 1-2 varieties.

In 2018, the USDA passed the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard to establish a standard for labeling GMO products. Beginning in 2020, these foods must be labeled with text, a symbol, an electronic link or a phone number for more information as mandated by the USDA.





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Ron Bates, Director - Agriculture, Agri-Business Institute 2019

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