

Genetically modified update

GM has not gone away, it is being introduced by stealth:

Growing GM

GM maize has been approved to be grown in Britain. But Bayer have decided not to grow their maize for “economic” reasons.

Bayer have also withdrawn applications for one maize and five oil seed rape varieties.

However, applications are still outstanding for two beet, one maize and two oil seed rape varieties.

The next approvals are likely to be for growing two animal feeds - Syngenta's BT11 sweetcorn and Monsanto's NK603 maize.

Eating GM

Even if these crops are not approved, we are still eating imported GM soya and maize:

- Meat, milk, cheese and eggs (and other animal products) which came from GM fed animals do not have to be labelled.
- Only the Co-op and Marks & Spencer are starting to commit themselves to avoiding GM fed animals and animal products.
- Twelve cows in Germany are suspected of having died from eating GM maize.

Milk has also been found to have been contaminated with GM proteins.

- Although food should be labelled if it contains GM ingredients, companies are getting around this by using “derivatives” which do not have to be labelled. These include soya and maize oil, processed food ingredients, emulsifiers, glucose, diglycerides, etc.

How to get rid of it...

- Buy organic.
- Make sure your food is grown in Britain.
- Assume all animals (and dairy products, eggs, etc) have been fed GM feed unless otherwise stated.
- Don't buy processed food.
- Don't use soya or maize oils.
- Buy your food from local sources such as farmers markets.
- Read the label!
- If you think you bought something which is GM, take it back immediately and demand a replacement or your money back. Make sure they know what you think!

GM free zones:

22 councils are now fully or partly GM free zones, plus the whole of Wales.