

Corn

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Sharratt-info@cban.ca<aname="eztoc3219_1" id="eztoc3219_1"><h2>Consumer Advisory: GM Sweet Corn</h2><p>Choose organic corn or ask your Farmers? Market, roadside stand or grocery store.</p><div class="object-right"><div class="content-view-embedded-media"><div class="class-image"><div class="attribute-image"><p></p></div></div></div></div><p>Issued: July 29, 2011</p><p>The Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) and the Ecological Farmers of Ontario have confirmed that genetically modified (GM) sweet corn is being grown by farmers in Ontario who are selling at roadside stands, at Farmers? Markets, and through some local grocery stores.</p><p>What consumers can do:</p>Buy organic sweet corn. Organic farming prohibits the use of genetic modification. Certified organic is your guarantee that your sweet corn is not genetically modified (and is also pesticide-free).Ask your local farmer or manager at the farm stand or grocery store if the sweet corn they are selling is genetically modified (also called genetically engineered). See below for helpful information.Send the Consumer Advisory to your friends and family:<p>Click here for the email advisory.<p>Below is a checklist of information and a questionnaire to help you get an answer to your question. The checklist is important because:</p>Some farmers may be growing GM sweet corn but not be aware that it is GM.Staff at the grocery store, or even the farm stand, will probably not be able to immediately answer your question and are very likely to be misinformed about GM foods.<p>GM corn is one of 4 GM crops grown in Canada: canola, soy, and white sugar beet (for sugar processing) are the others. The GM corn grown in Canada has been, until recently, all hard corn used for processed food ingredients and animal feed. The Canadian government does not label GM foods and does not keep national statistics on how much GM is grown or where. CBAN researches and monitors GM foods for you: for more information please see http://www.cban.ca/gmfoods</p><aname="eztoc3219_2" id="eztoc3219_2"><h2>GM Sweet Corn Checklist</h2><p>Tips for asking your local farmer:</p>Does your sweet corn have insect protection? Is it resistant to corn borer or earworm? The GM sweet corn is sold under the brand name? Attribute? from Rogers which is owned by the biotech company Syngenta.The GM sweet corn is genetically modified to be toxic to the European corn borer and corn earworm.The GM technology that makes the plant toxic to these insects is Monsanto's Bt? YieldGard? technology.Farmers purchasing Attribute? Bt insect-protected? seed will sign a Grower Stewardship Agreement?What company did you buy your corn seed from? GM sweet corn is available to buy from US seed companies, including Seedway, selling Genetically Enhanced? hybrid sweet corn seed. The sweet corn varieties are also called? insect-protected hybrids?-<p>The corn is a hybrid but it is also genetically modified. (Seedway also sells organic and untreated sweet corn seed.)</p></div></div></div></div><p>Tips for asking your grocery store, produce manager or farm stand manager:</p>CBAN has made a questionnaire that you can leave with your grocery store, produce or farm stand manager if necessary. Ask them to fill it out and get back to you.<p>Download the PDF Questionnaire Here - or Download the Word Document Questionnaire here.You can also print? CBAN?s Quick Guide to GM Foods? to hand to them. (If you have this information from CBAN, you will most likely have more information than your grocery store manager.)<p>Please contact us:</p><div class="object-right"><div class="content-view-embedded-media"><div class="class-image"><div class="attribute-image"><p></p></div></div></div></div><p>If you find GM sweet corn, please inform CBAN oft

helocationandofanydetailsfromyourconversationwiththefarmer,farmstandmanagerorgrocerystoremananager.Pleasesendyourinformationtocoordinator@cban.caorleaveamessageat6132412267ext25(thisnumberwillnotbestaffeduntilAugust11). Fax6132412506Ifyouhavequestions:YoucansocallAnnSlater,ChairoftheEcologicalFarmersofOntarioGECCommittee519-349-2448aslater@quadro.net</p><p>Thankyouforyouraction!</p><h2>Stop"SmartStax"Eight-TraitGECorn</h2><p>June28,2011:GermangroupTestbiotechreleasedacriticalnewreportthatexposesunstudiedquestionsinconfidentialindustrydocumentsfromMonsantoandDowAgroSciencesontheirgeneticallymodified(GM)eight-traitcorncalled?SmartStax?,approvedinCanadain2009.TheGMSmartStaxcornproducessixdifferentinsecticidaltoxinsandistoleranttotwoherbicides.ItwasallowedontothemarketinCanadawithoutasafetyevaluationfromHealthCanada.</p><div class="object-right"><div class="content-view-embeddedmedia"><div class="class-image"><div class="attribute-image"><p></p></div><div class="attribute-caption" style="width:200px"><p>Credit:Testbiotech</p></div></div></div><p>June28,2011-PressRelease:ReportExposesUnstudiedRisksofMonsanto'sGeneticallyModified"SmartStax"Corn:EUMemberStatecritiquesandleakedindustrydocumentsuncoverssafetyquestions</p><p>Backgrounders:SelectedCommentsfromEUMemberStatesandListingofStudiesRecommendedSummaryandBackgroundonSmartStaxcornandriskquestions,CBAN.<p>TelltheMinisterofHealthitsunacceptablethatHealthCanadadidnotassessthesafetyof?SmartStax?beforeitwasapproved.Clickheretosendyourinstantemailer.</p><h2>ActionResources:</h2>Instantemailer.PostcardstoprintandsendtotheMinister.FlyeronSmartStaxforprintingandfolding.TalkingpointsforcallingorwritingtheMinister.Factsheet:Why'SmartStax'isDumb<div class="object-right"><div class="content-view-embeddedmedia"><div class="class-image"><div class="attribute-image"><p></p></div></div></div></div><p>Background:HealthCanadadidnotassessthesafetyof?SmartStax?GMcorn.HealthCanadadoesnotclassify?SmartStax?asa?NovelFood?becauseithaspreviouslyapprovedtheightsingleGMtraitsin?SmartStax?,individuallyinearlier crops.HealthCanadasayssthatcombiningeightGMtraits together does not create any new risk sand does not need any safety evaluation.HealthCanadadidnotevenbother torubber-stamp?SmartStax??itwasapprovedforreleasebytheCanadianFoodInspectionAgency,withoutHealthCanada.</p><p>Summary:OnJuly15,2009M

onsanto and Dow AgroSciences announced that they received approval to introduce their new weight-trait GM corn 'SmartStax' in Canada and the US. But Health Canada did not assess 'SmartStax' for human health safety and did not even bother to authorize it. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency authorized the environmental release of 'SmartStax' but never conducted an environmental risk assessment and actually substantially weakened its environmental stewardship rules for the crop. Because the eight traits were previously approved in separate crops, Canadian regulators don't see anything new in combining the eight together.

despite the fact that the Codex international food safety guidelines that Canada helped to negotiate clearly state that stacked traits can lead to unintended effects and should be subject to a full safety assessment.

[Information Resources:](#)

- [Read the CBAN article in Alive Magazine.](http://www.alive.com/7556a20a2.php?current_topic=33) February 2010.
- [Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/CBAN-on-SmartStax-Western-Producer](#)

[CBAN Opinion: Stacked traits lack assessment](#), Western Producer, October 15, 2009.

- [Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Monsanto-s-response-to-CBAN-on-SmartStax](#)

[Monsanto response: Stacked Traits good for growers](#), Western Producer, November 5, 2009.

- [Full Analysis: Why did Monsanto's latest GE foods get free pass from Health Canada?](http://rabble.ca/news/2009/09/why-did-monsantos-latest-ge-foods-get-free-pass-canada)

[Why did Monsanto's latest food get a free pass from Health Canada?](#) rabble.ca article

- [Press/Press-Releases/No-Safety-Assessment-of-GE-Corn-by-Health-Canada](#)

[Press Release: No Safety Assessment of GE Corn by Health Canada:](#) Canada Ignores International Food Safety Guidelines. July 29, 2009.

- [Press/Press-Releases/CFIA-s-Irresponsible-Rubber-Stamping-of-New-GE-Corn](#)

[Press Release: CFIA's Irresponsible Rubber-Stamping of New Genetically Engineered Corn](#)

- [No environmental risk assessment, and reduced environmental stewardship requirements for new Monsanto/Dow SmartStax?](#) July 24, 2009.

[Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Letter-to-Health-Canada-re-SmartStax2](#)

- [CBAN letter to Health Canada.](#) July 28, 2009.

[Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/SmartStax-Genetic-Corn-Really-Safe](#)

- [Response to Health Canada: SmartStax? Genetic Corn Really Safe?](#) Montreal Gazette, CBAN Opinion Letter, July 30, 2009.

[Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Letter-to-CFIA-re-SmartStax-Aug-3-2009](#)

- [CBAN letter to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.](#) August 3, 2009.

[Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Codex-Guideline](#)

- [UN Codex Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants.](#)

[Features/Petition-Tabled-for-GE-Free-Yukon/Briefing-Note-1-The-Inadequacies-and-Limitations-of-Regulation](#)

- [CBAN Briefing Note on GE regulation in Canada.](#)

[Failure of Government Regulation](#)

CBAN demand statement:

- [Health Canada immediately request that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency rescind its authorization of the genetically modified \(GM\) eight-trait corn called SmartStax? \(Monsanto and Dow AgroSciences\)](#)
- [Health Canada initiate a full food safety assessment of the GM corn asset out by the Codex Alimentarius Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants.](#)
- [Health Canada request the Canadian Food Inspection Agency halt any further approval of stacked trait products until Health Canada has reviewed its Novel Foods Regulations and initiated a systematic review of the entire regulatory system for GM foods and crops \("Novel Foods" and "PI plants with Novel Traits"\).](#)

[Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Letter-to-Health-Canada-re-SmartStax2](#)

- [Click here to read the full letter from CBAN to Health Canada.](#) July 28, 2009.

[Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Minister-of-Health-responds-to-CBAN-letter-on-SmartStax](#)

- [Minister of Health's response.](#)

[Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Letter-to-CFIA-re-SmartStax-Aug-3-2009](#)

- [Click here to read CBAN's letter to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.](#) August 3, 2009.

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Read the [CFIA's response to CBAN](/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/CFIA-response-to-CBAN-s-letter-on-SmartStax).

The UN Codex guidelines for GM food safety assessment state that unintended effects in recombinant-DNA plants may also arise through the insertion of DNA sequences and/or may arise through **subsequent conventional breeding of the recombinant-DNA plant**. (this shows stacked trait GE crops like SmartStax are reproduced through the conventional breeding or crossing of GM plants) and that such crops should go through a full safety assessment (para 14, CAC/GL45-2003).

The international [Codex Alimentarius Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants](/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Codex-Guideline) clearly recommends safety assessments of stacked trait GE crops. The Guideline clearly states that unintended effects can arise not only from genetically engineered (GE) plants, but can also arise when those GE plants are crossed via conventional breeding (as in the case of stacked-trait crops such as SmartStax): Unintended effects in recombinant-DNA plants may also arise through the insertion of DNA sequences and/or may arise through **subsequent conventional breeding of the recombinant-DNA plant** (para 14, CAC/GL45-2003). Furthermore, the Guidelines also state that such crops should go through a full safety assessment: The assessment for unintended effects takes into account the agronomic/phenotypic characteristics of the plant that are typically observed by breeders in selecting new varieties for commercialization. These observations by breeders provide a first screen for plants that exhibit unintended traits. **New varieties that pass this screen are subjected to safety assessment as described in Sections 4 and 5** (para 17, CAC/GL45-2003).