



# What is Genetic Engineering?

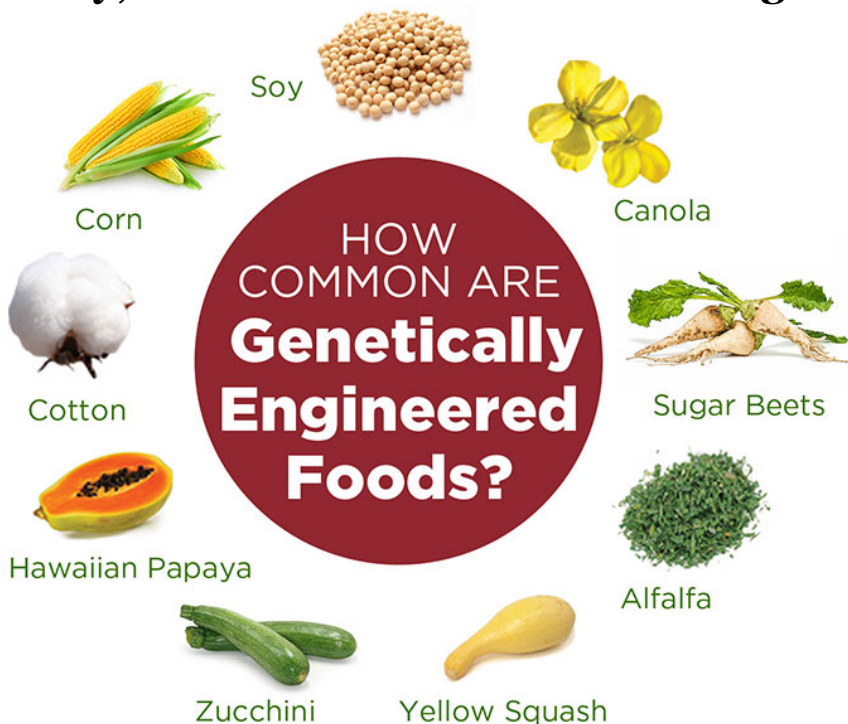
**Genetic Engineering** is the science of altering and cloning genes to produce a new trait in an organism or to make a biological substance, such as a protein or hormone. Genetic engineering mainly involves the creation of recombinant DNA, which is then inserted into the genetic material of a cell or virus. While crossbreeding and hybridization have been traditional ways to enhance desired traits in food crops for millennia, these means of exchanging genetic material have been limited to related species. Genetic Engineering allows the exchange of genes among species that would never

share genetic material in nature. Fish genes have been crossed into strawberries. Botulism bacteria genes have been engineered into corn. Many scientists believe that crossing this natural species barrier is dangerous.

The insertion of genes has been presented to the public as a highly-precise process. In fact, the extruded genes are simply blasted into cells until the desired trait is exhibited by the genetically modified organism. These genes are often poorly bonded, and can easily detach and reattach elsewhere on the DNA strand for unexpected traits. Studies have shown they can reattach to our human DNA with unknown consequences.

## KNOWN GMO CROPS

**Currently, GMO varieties of the following crops are grown outside the lab:**



**Alfalfa, Canola, Corn, Cotton, Papaya, Soy, Yellow Squash & Zucchini, Sugar Beets.**

**It is estimated that 70% of all processed foods are thought to contain GMO ingredients.**

# GMOs & the Global Food Supply

The engineering and patenting of major food crops by a few corporations further consolidates their control over the global food supply. This ensures that farmers are dependent upon these corporations for seeds as they lose their own seed stock. This monopolization creates extraordinary risk for global and local food security.



## BUY ORGANIC & LOOK FOR THE BUTTERFLY

Organic standards do not allow for genetic manipulation, so buying organic means buying GE-free. Additionally, some conventional food producers who do not use GMO ingredients provide GMO-free verification.



**JUST SAY NO TO GMO!**

- GMOs are minimally tested and loosely regulated. The long term effects of GMOs on human health are unknown.
- GMO foods can be a serious threat to people with food allergies.
- GMO foods are not labeled, denying consumers the right to choose.
- GMO crops that are pollinated via insects or the wind can pollute the crops of neighboring organic farms.
- Crops genetically engineered to contain pesticides are creating "super pests," which force farmers to use more pesticides, escalating agricultural chemical use.
- Patenting life forms enables agricultural monopolies to gain control over the global food system, making farmers dependent on corporations.

## Our Take on GMOs

Community Market strongly opposes the use of genetically modified organisms in food. We support global, national, and local efforts to label and/or ban such foods until they can be proven safe for consumption and the environment.



## TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GMOS...

[saynotogmos.org](http://saynotogmos.org)

[non-gmoreport.com](http://non-gmoreport.com)

[nongmoproject.org](http://nongmoproject.org)

[organicconsumers.org](http://organicconsumers.org)

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