

Statements Florida Master Gardeners should use if asked about the organization's "position" on transgenic crop technology ("GMO" crops):

The Florida Master Gardener Program is a University of Florida/IFAS Extension program. Information provided by UF/IFAS Extension originates from science-based research published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Reputable scientific bodies worldwide agree that producing and consuming transgenic (GMO) crops pose no more risk compared with conventionally-bred crops. Florida Master Gardeners take no position on GMO crops beyond what the science says.

What does the science say?

- Transgenic crop technology ("GMO") is a precise extension of conventional plant breeding.
- The technology used is no riskier than conventional plant breeding.
- In 18 years there has not been one case of illness or death attributed to GMO crops.
- Currently, growing GMO crops allows farmers to use less insecticide and a low-toxicity herbicide, saving environmental inputs and lowering fuel, labor and other costs.
- Solutions exist to increase nutrition, decrease water usage, increase nitrogen efficiency, and fight plant disease.
- Solutions are pending that may address citrus greening and other major plant diseases.

What GMO crops are used in the USA today?

- There are three major traits (insect resistance, virus resistance and herbicide resistance) used in only six crops (sugar beet, alfalfa, corn, soy, cotton, canola).
- There is extremely minor acreage of virus-resistant squash and papaya (Hawaii only).
- Non-browning potato and apple are recently deregulated and will be grown commercially in the coming years.

Statements Florida Master Gardeners should use if asked about the organization's "position" on transgenic crop technology ("GMO" crops)