

Animal and Plant Health Agency

APHA Genetic Modification Inspectorate

Growing season field inspection report 2023: consent 21/R52/01 (spring 2023 release)

A report on the Genetic Modification Inspectorate's field inspection visit to a genetically modified (GM) crop trial to assess compliance with the Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations 2002 and Part VI of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

GMO consent details

Consent reference: 21/R52/01 (consent for experimental release).

Consent holder: John Innes Centre.

Crop type: Wheat (spring) (*Triticum aestivum*).

Site details: Bawburgh, Norfolk

OS grid reference: TG 150 088

Details of the GMO

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) plants, cultivar Fielder, which have been genetically modified to enhance micronutrient accumulation in the grain by over-expressing, in the same plants, the wheat *vacuolar iron transporter 2* (*TaVIT2*) gene in the endosperm, and the *rice nicotianamine synthase 2* (*OsNAS2*) gene.

Purpose of the release

To investigate genetically modified wheat lines that have been biofortified to accumulate higher levels of micronutrients in their grain in the field.

Site inspection details

Inspection date: 13 July 2023

Site reference: JIC-21/R52/01-SITE01-2023-INSP_01.

Personnel seen: Principal Investigator and Project Research Assistant.

Inspection details

The Genetic Modification Inspectorate (GMI) carried out an inspection of this 2023-sown research trial of GM spring wheat at the dough development growth stage. Checks were made on the:

- location, size and layout of the trial
- measures in place to restrict human access to the site
- dimensions of the non-GM pollen barrier
- status of the 20m border

The GMI also reviewed the:

- methods that had been employed for planting the GMOs
- procedures in place for management and monitoring of the release during the growing season
- Consent Holder's plans for harvest and disposal of plant material

All were in accordance with the requirements specified in the consent document.

Conclusions and actions

Report conclusions

The Genetic Modification Inspectorate is content that the release is consistent with the conditions and limitations specified in the consent document. No risks to human health or the environment, posed by the genetically modified organism, were identified.

Action required or taken: None

APHA GM Inspectorate

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