

Animal and Plant Health Agency

APHA Genetic Modification Inspectorate

Growing season field inspection report: consent 21/R52/01 (2024 release)

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

Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) consent details

Consent reference: 21/R52/01 ('Part B' consent)

Consent holder: John Innes Centre

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

Site details: Bawburgh, Norfolk

OS 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 GM wheat lines that have been biofortified to accumulate higher levels of micronutrients in their grain in the field.

Site inspection details

Inspection date: 17 July 2024

Site reference: JIC-21/R52/01-SITE01-2024-INSP_01.

Personnel seen: Principal Investigator, Project Research Assistant and Field Experimentation Manager

Inspection details

The GMI carried out an inspection of this 2024-sown research trial of GM spring wheat at the late milk/dough development growth stage. Checks were made on the location, size and layout of the trial, the measures in place to restrict human access to the site, the dimensions of the non-GM pollen barrier, and the status of the 20m border. The GMI also reviewed the methods that had been employed for planting the GMOs, the procedures in place for management and monitoring of the release during the growing season, and the Consent Holder's plans for harvest and disposal of plant material. All were in accordance with the requirements specified in the consent.

Conclusions and actions

Report conclusions

The GMI is content that the release is consistent with the conditions and limitations specified in the consent. 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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