

APHA Genetic Modification Inspectorate

Growing season field inspection report: consent 22/R55/01 (autumn-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.

GMO consent details

Consent reference: 22/R55/01 ('Part B' consent)

Consent holder: Wild Bioscience Ltd.

Crop type: Winter wheat (*Triticum aestivum*)

Site details: Church Farm, Bawburgh

OS Reference: TG 150 088

Details of the GMO: Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) plants, based on the cultivar Cadenza, that have been genetically modified to enhance leaf-level photosynthetic carbon assimilation, increase vegetative biomass, along with increasing numbers and total mass of seeds per plant. This phenotype results from overexpression of the wheat photoreceptor gene Phytochrome B that has been inserted into the genome under the control of an exogenous promoter, Phosphoenolpyruvate Carboxykinase, from *Zoysia japonica*.

Purpose of the release: To investigate the effect of increased expression of a photosynthetic regulator on agronomic endpoints of wheat, with the results informing future efforts to develop high-yielding wheat seed products.

Site inspection details

Inspection date: 05 June 2025

Site reference: WBL-22/R55/01-SITE02-2025-INSP_01.

Staff seen: Field Experimental Team Leader

Inspection details: The Genetic Modification Inspectorate carried out an inspection of this autumn-2024 sown research trial of GM winter wheat at growth stage 70 (end of flowering). 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 isolation distance (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 Genetic Modification Inspectorate 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/taken: None

APHA GM Inspectorate

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