

APHA Genetic Modification Inspectorate

Growing season field inspection report: consent 21/R54/01 (2025 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: 21/R54/01 ('Part B' consent)

Consent holder: University of Cambridge Crop Science Centre

Crop type: Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*)

Site details: Park Farm, Girton, Cambridgeshire

OS Reference: TL 427 619

Details of the GMO

The GMOs are barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) plants, based on the cultivar Golden Promise, that have been genetically modified (by both CRISPR/Cas9-mediated gene editing and through transgenesis) with respect to the symbiosis pathways involved in the perception of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi¹.

Purpose of the release:

To investigate the impacts of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi inoculation on biomass and yield of genetically modified barley lines that have been modified with respect to symbiosis pathways, in the field.

¹ For further details of the lines authorised for release see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/genetically-modified-organisms-cambridge-university-crop-science-centre-21r5401>. Note: in this 2025 trial, only seven of the 15 GM lines described in the consent application and variation were released.

Site inspection details

Inspection date: 9 July 2025

Site reference: CSC-21/R54/01-SITE02-2025-INSP_01

Staff seen: Trials Coordinator, Deputy Consent Manager and University Safety Officer

Inspection details

The Genetic Modification Inspectorate carried out an inspection of this 2025-sown research trial of GM barley at the ripening stage (growth stage 91). 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 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 or taken: None

APHA GM Inspectorate

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10 July 2025