HOW ARE GMOS TESTED FOR ALLERGIES?

Before a GMO is created, the desired trait is screened against all known human allergens to confirm it does not introduce a new allergen.

How does this work?

Researchers look at 1,950+ genes to see if there is a match between the desired trait and a known allergen.

Who oversees this process?

Codex, the authority on international food standards established by the WHO and FAO, which is comprised of 185+ countries that establish conservative guidelines to ensure safety.





At what stage in the development of a GMO does allergy testing occur?

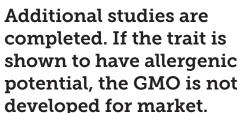
Early and often. The DNA sequence testing occurs before a GMO is even created and continues throughout the research phase. The desired trait is continually monitored.

Is this process effective?

YES

GMOs currently on the market have not caused a single new allergy.

YES



Is there a match?

NO

Screening continues, the new trait is continually monitored.



Additional tests are conducted. Researchers ask:



Does the desired trait share characteristics with a known allergen?



Does the desired trait create a *new* type of allergen?



Does the desired trait change the levels of any natural allergens already in the plant?

Does the research indicate the desired trait may cause allergies?

YES



Development of the GMO stops and it does not come to market.



NO

The GMO continues through the regulatory review process. GMOs are studied extensively using an internationally-accepted approach to make sure they are safe to grow, safe to eat and safe for the environment. Today's GMOs are the most researched and tested agricultural products in history.