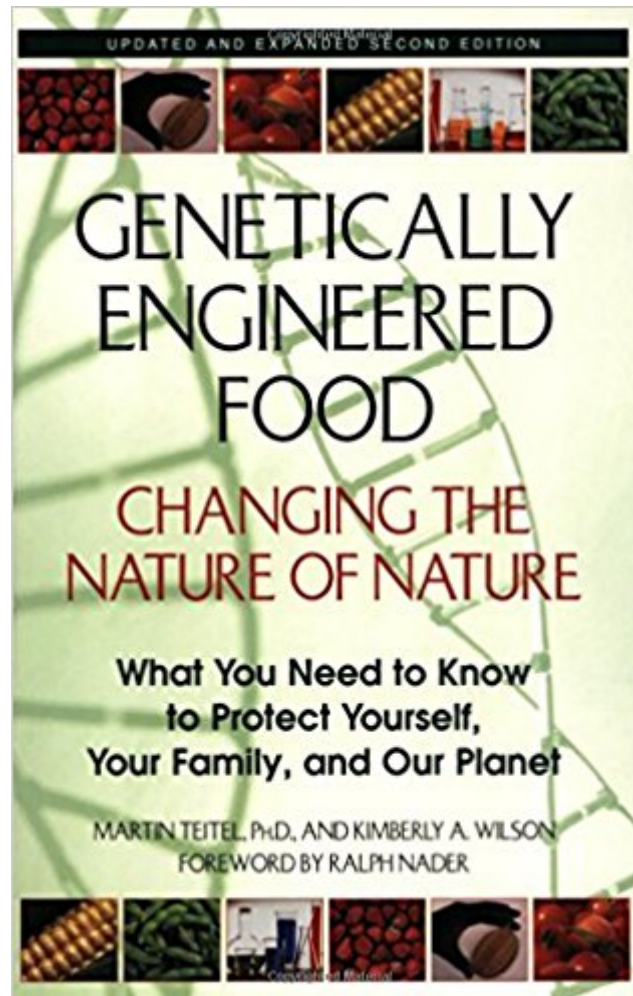




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# Genetically Engineered Food: Changing The Nature Of Nature



## Synopsis

The book that takes a comprehensive look at the threat to our food supply from genetic engineering. 15,000 copies sold in the first six months. Includes new studies about the dangers of genetically engineered food. Refutes the "feed the poor" propaganda spread by agribusinesses. Is both an expose and educational primer on this controversial technology that is already a part of every American's diet. Explains the dangers of these foods to ourselves and our environment in easily understood terms. Picture a world? Where the french fries you eat are registered as a pesticide, not a food. Where vegetarians unwittingly consume fish genes in their tomatoes. Where corn plants kill monarch butterflies. Where soy plants thrive on doses of herbicide that kill every other plant in sight. Where multinational corporations own the life forms that farmers grow and legally control the farmers' actions. That world exists. These things are all happening, and they are happening to you. Genetically engineered foods--plants whose genetic structures are altered by scientists in ways that could never occur in nature--are already present in many of the products you buy in supermarkets, unlabeled, unwanted, and largely untested. The threat of these organisms to human and environmental health has caused them to be virtually banned in Europe, yet the U.S. government, working hand-in-hand with a few biotech corporations, has actively encouraged their use while discouraging labeling that might alert consumers to what they are eating. The authors show what the future holds and give you the information you need to preserve the independence and integrity of our food supply. What can you do? First, inform yourself.

Genetically Engineered Food: Changing the Nature of Nature is the first book to take a comprehensive look at the many ramifications of this disturbing trend. Authors Martin Teitel and Kimberly Wilson explain what genetic engineering is and how it works, then explore the health risks involved with eating organisms never before seen in nature. They address the ecological catastrophe that could result from these modified plants crossing with wild species and escaping human control altogether, as well as the economic devastation that may befall small farmers who find themselves at the mercy of mega-corporations for their livelihood. Taking the discussion a step further, they consider the ethical and spiritual implications of this radical change in our relationship to the natural world, showing what the future holds and giving you the information you need to act on your own or to join others in preserving the independence and integrity of our food supply.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What People are Saying About GE Food "Martin Teitel and Kimberly Wilson have cut through all the hype and misconceptions surrounding genetically engineered food and provided the indispensable primer for every family in America concerned with making wise dietary choices in the biotech century. Finally, we have available a guide to biotech food issues that is informed, intelligent, and chock-full of common sense. I urge every consumer to read this book before walking into a supermarket again. It will open up your eyes, change what you put in your mouth, and transform your thinking about food forever." Jeremy Rifkin, author of *The Biotech Century* "By far the most accessible and informative publication on genetic engineering in food production that I have read to date." It is written so that the non-scientist can fully understand the scope of this technology, with numerous footnotes and references that are a handy resource guide for those seeking more knowledge. An excellent book." Katherine DiMatteo, Executive Director, Organic Trade Association "For consumers who wish to understand why their food has been genetically altered--without their consent, with virtually no testing, and without labeling--Teitel and Wilson's timely book is essential reading." It tells us who the winners and losers are in this global experiment with the world's food supply." Sheldon Krimsky, author of *Agricultural Biotechnology and the Environment* "As bioengineered crops cover ever more millions of acres, the likelihood of side effects and unintended consequences looms larger." Farmers will realize they were not told enough of the truth." And consumers will see there is no escape other than to fight back and demand an open scientific process and response to persistent questions and miscues, with the burden of proof right on the companies and their accomplices. All this and more is why *Genetically Engineered Food: Changing*

the Nature of Nature is so valuable for enlightening the public." From the foreword by Ralph Nader "We simply do not know the long-term consequences for human health and the wider environment of releasing plants bred in this way?The lesson of BSE [mad cow disease] and other entirely man-made disasters on the road to 'cheap food' is surely that it is the unforeseen consequences which present the greatest cause for concern. Even the best science cannot predict the unpredictable." H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, June 8, 1998 "There are certainly more and more questions being asked about biotechnology, and those questions must be answered. They cannot be brushed off. They must be dealt with. Otherwise, what will happen is that the consuming public, both here and abroad, will begin to believe that there are problems with it." USDA Chief Dan Glickman, June 6, 1999 GE Food in the News "In Britain, Arpad Pusztai, a professor at the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen, reported in April that an experiment in which laboratory rats were fed genetically modified potatoes had caused weakened immune systems and damage to vital organs." The Toronto Globe and Mail, February 20, 1999 "The world's two largest food production companies have decided they no longer will accept genetically modified ingredients for products sold in Europe." Â Â Natural Foods Merchandiser, July 1999 "University of Chicago researchers are concerned that genetically engineered crops could cross-breed with weeds, creating 'super weeds' that have genes making them immune to Roundup or other chemicals." The Boston Globe, July 11, 1999 "The popcorn at your movie house could be made from plants designed to fight off a voracious pest called the corn borer. Your baby's formula could come from soybean plants biologically transformed to withstand the herbicide Roundup. The bags of potato chips on your grocer's shelves could be sliced from spuds containing a gene that poisons Colorado potato beetles." The San Francisco Examiner, July 11, 1999 "The Rockefeller Foundation, which funds research to help poor farmers in developing countries, asked Monsanto Co. to swear off use of the 'terminator gene,' which would make seed sterile." The Wall Street Journal, June 28, 1999 "At some cost and considerable inconvenience, Gerber is dropping some of its existing corn and soybean suppliers in favor of ones that can produce crops that aren't genetically altered." The Wall Street Journal, July 30, 1999 "The science journal Nature published a Cornell University study showing that almost half the monarch butterflies who fed on the pollen from Bt corn died." Â Â The Boston Globe, July 11, 1999 "Cuts through all the hype and misconceptions surrounding genetically engineered food and provides the indispensable primer." ( Jeremy Rifkin, author of The Biotech Century)"This is an impressively readable and informative treatment." (Talking Leaves, Spring/Summer 2000)" . . . thorough and alarming. People who are concerned about their health and the health of the planet should read this book." (Vermont Times)"Authors Teitel and Wilson have performed an important

and timely service in writing their book." (Dr. Joseph Ray, Atlantis Rising, Number 24)"A gripping account of the environmental, social, political, ethical, legal and economic decisions . . . about genetic engineering and our food supply." (Earth Island Journal, Volume 17, number 4)"An honest, eye-opening read for the consumer who is concerned with what really comes off the grocery store shelves." (New Texas, June 2002)"Read and learn what genetic engineering is, how it works, and the ways in which it affects your cuisine choices." (PJ Birrosik, Nexus, July/August 2002)". . . a comprehensive and persuasive primer that is guaranteed to make readers take this new and daunting aspect of food production seriously." (Orion Afield, Winter 2001/02)"In simple, straightforward language, Martin Teitel and Kimberly A. Wilson guide readers through the questionable process of toying with a food's gene pool, and offer a glimpse of the technology hidden behind the misleading label." (The Environmental Magazine, January/February 2000)"Teitel and Wilson provide a scientific and comprehensive guide about the potential dangers of these new foods. The book reinforces its research with extensive footnotes and indexes, along with a variety of advocacy and informational websites." (Today's Librarian, December 2000)"Few, if any, food issues are hotter right now in the public mind than the issue of genetically engineered food. This book is a simple, readable treatise detailing the main dangers of genetically modified food, ranging from its predictability, the assault on biodiversity, ethical problems of the patenting of seeds and life forms, the merging of the food and chemical industries and the global oppression of the family farmer. With a forward by Ralph Nader, this book is a must-have, no matter which side of the GE food debate one is on, since it provides such a thorough, and yet relatively brief coverage of the "anti" side in this fascinating, complex, and extremely important debate. Recommended." (Anne Newkirk Niven, SageWoman, Winter '00 - 01)

CURRENT AFFAIRS    "For consumers who wish to understand why their food has been genetically altered--without their consent, with virtually no testing, and without labeling--Teitel and Wilson's timely book is essential reading. It tells us who the winners and losers are in this global experiment with the world's food supply." --Sheldon Krinsky, author of Agricultural Biotechnology and the Environment    "Martin Teitel and Kimberly Wilson have cut through all the hype and misconceptions surrounding genetically engineered food and provided an indispensable primer for every family in America concerned with making wise dietary choices in the biotech century. I urge every consumer to read this book before walking into a supermarket again. It will open up your eyes, change what you put in your mouth, and transform your thinking about food forever." --Jeremy Rifkin, author of The Biotech Century    "By far the most

accessible and informative publication on genetic engineering in food production that I have read to date. It is written so that the non-scientist can fully understand the scope of this technology. An excellent book.

—Katherine DiMatteo, Executive Director, Organic Trade Association

Picture a world where the french fries you eat are registered as a pesticide. Where corn plants kill monarch butterflies. Where soy plants thrive on doses of herbicide that would kill a normal plant. Where multinational corporations own the seeds that farmers grow and legally control the farmers' actions. That world exists. These events are happening now, and they are happening to us all. Genetically engineered foods--from plants whose genetic structures are altered by scientists in ways that could never occur in nature--are already present in most of the products you buy in supermarkets. They are unlabeled, unwanted, and largely untested. In this updated and expanded edition of *Genetically Engineered Food: Changing the Nature of Nature*, authors Martin Teitel and Kimberly Wilson explain what genetic engineering is and how it works, then explore the health risks involved with eating these newly created foods. They address the ecological hazards that could result from modified plants crossing with wild species and escaping human control altogether, as well as the economic ruin that may befall small farmers who find themselves at the mercy of huge corporations for their livelihood. Addressing the "feed the poor" propaganda spread by the agribusiness industry, they describe how the genetic engineering "revolution" actually threatens to displace farmers in the Third World and intensify the problem of world hunger. Finally, the authors consider the ethical and spiritual implications of this radical change in our relationship to the natural world, and show what the future holds if we don't act now to implement a moratorium on the production of genetically engineered food.

MARTIN TEITEL, PH.D., is President of the Council for Responsible Genetics, a national nonprofit organization of concerned scientists, doctors, and activists founded in 1983 to foster public debate about the social, ethical, health, economic, and environmental implications of genetic technology.

KIMBERLY A. WILSON, former director of the council's Program on Commercial Biotechnology and the Environment, works with the Greenpeace Genetic Engineering Campaign.

Ok

this book is not what you think it is . Don't waste your money. I found the title very deceptive and I deeply believe it was written probably by someone that is involved in mind control. It has the facts geared towards making you think that genetic foods are safe etc.....when this clearly is not so. Oh and it also in a round about way makes Monsanto look "ok"

Genetically Engineered Food: Changing the Nature of Nature-- What You Need to Know to Protect Yourself, Your Family, and Our Planet, 2nd ed. By Martin Teitel, Ph.D., and Kimberly A. Wilson (Park Street Press, 2001, ISBN 0-89281-948-0) Never before have we lived in a world where it has become so important for all of us to be informed. Genetic engineering affects every one of us in dangerous and unknown ways. Altering the genetics of the world we live in and consume even has spiritual implications. Consumers do not want genetically engineered products but thanks to our agencies that are supposed to look out for us these products are unlabeled in most cases. You can find most everything you need to know about genetically altered foods in this book. It's time for a moratorium on their production, so get involved by getting informed. Rahasya Poe, Lotus Guide Magazine and Author of "To Believe Or Not To Believe: The Social & Neurological Consequences of Belief Systems"

As a writer and researcher, I ran across this book doing background for The Magic Bean, a chapter on soy ( ). P>The importance of Teitel and Wilson's book is that in a very simple, readable fashion, they have presented the main problematic issues with GM, including: - its inherent unpredictability - the assault on the biodiversity of nature - irrevocable disruption of evolution - the patenting of seeds and life forms by the agri-giants - the sweetheart relationship between the FDA and the food giants: why GM foods aren't labeled - the merging of the food and chemical industries - the global oppression of the single farmer Except for a few lapses into passe' early-90s rabid feminist rhetoric, the book could have been a pivotal work. It still may be employed as a primer for the non-scientific layman who is just beginning his research on the topic of genetic modification, and who has some suspicions that everything isn't quite so safe as Monsanto's PR machine would lead us all to believe. The book is well researched, although the footnoting method is most inconvenient. I was fascinated by the sources that describe the current state laws regarding what may or may not be said in written or spoken media about food. In many states it is a crime to criticize food products! It would cost millions in court costs to challenge these blatantly unconstitutional state laws, rammed through legislatures by the agri-giants. The result is a de facto negation of the First Amendment. What else is new, huh? If the reader has any interest in GM, this book is a good jumping-off point.

END

I first heard about the issue of genetically modified (GMO) food a few years ago when the protest movement against it began in Great Britain and then spread to the rest of Europe. However, I did

not know the issues involved...After reading this book, I think I have a better grasp on the problems with GMO foods as contrasted to traditional food. The most shocking assertion I found in the book is that GMO foods do not offer any benefits (whether it be higher yields, higher nutritional value etc...). I have not done enough research to verify this either way but if true that would be quite shocking. Some of the interesting things I learned in the book:- GMO science is quite imprecise. Researchers are often not sure if the insertion of foreign genes into a host (e.g. a plant) will have the predicted results or not.- The immense size of some GMO companies, notably the American firm Monsanto. (To give some perspective: Microsoft is to the software industry as Monsanto is to the GMO industry) One of the most pressing concerns for me was the commercialization of agriculture. For example, Monsanto spent \$8 billion US in the first half of 1998 buying out seed companies (a few companies may end up owning patents to all the seeds in the world if this is left unchecked). The new trend of patenting seeds is also creating a dependency on the part of the farmers. Prior to GMO, farmers would save the seeds from their better crops and plant those next years. GMO companies, through contracts and other legal instruments, now insure that farmers buy from them EVERY year and they penalize the farmers if they attempt to save seeds. The whole concept of OWNING plants and organisms was very disturbing (it was interesting to note that a little known US Supreme Court decision *Diamond v. Chakrabarty* 1980 set a precedent in patenting life) There was also some discussion of whether GMO foods should be labeled as such (the authors argue that GMO foods should be labeled). Of course, this is done in Western Europe, so there is no question of whether this is possible. GMO companies are vigorously fighting this, fearing that the public will immediately stop buying their products. The main content of the book consisted of documenting various cases where GMO foods have caused problems of some sort or another. There was an interesting point made on how much of an influence GMO companies have on the Food and Drug Administration in the US. There was also an introductory section on genetic engineering, so the beginner will not get lost. The authors offered a personal strategy whereby one can try to publicize the issue, find alternatives to buying and eating GMO foods and so on. The authors are clearly of the view that GMO foods are, at best, a strange unknown and, at worst, a foolish risk. I took off a star off because the writing could have been better and the authors made their agenda a little too obvious. It would have improved the book if they had included and responded to some of the pro-GMO counter-arguments.

This is a well written book that provides the facts about modern genetically modified foods such as corn and soy and explores the different avenues by which these foods can be harmful to us as well

as other animals. The book does not tell you what you should do, but it really does not have too because the evidence the authors provide is so compelling, that anyone who reads this book will think twice about their next purchase at the store. The book also explores the nature by which large corporations such as Novartis and Monsanto are able to saturate the market with their products before ample (or any kind of) testing is performed. Monsanto is also on the path to a closed loop business whereby they sell the farmers the GMO seeds which in turn require the pesticide (or other chemical) also manufactured by said company and the farmer must also pay a technology fee for using the seed! A must read!

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