

New EU rules on plant genomic techniques

Published by AGRINFO on 27 Jul 2023; Revised 24 Jul 2026

Regulation (EU) [2026/1388](#) on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their products

What is changing and why?

Since the European Union (EU) established its rules on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in 2001, new genomic techniques (NGTs) have been developed. The EU believes these new techniques can benefit farmers, consumers, and the environment. However, the previous rules made it challenging for products from these NGTs to enter the EU market. So the EU has agreed on new rules specifically for NGT plants and products.

The new rules establish two categories of NGT plants/products.

Category 1 NGT plants and products

These plants and products (NGT-1) are considered to be equivalent to plants produced by conventional breeding. They are not considered to be genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and therefore do not have to comply with the general GMO rules. Plants that are equivalent to conventionally bred plants, but that are tolerant to herbicides or have known insecticidal effects, are **not** included in category 1.

Category 1 NGT plants/products do not require specific labelling or traceability – with the exception of seeds and other plant reproductive materials, which must be labelled as NGT-1 plants.

Products of NGT-1 plants placed on the EU market for the first time must undergo a verification procedure. This procedure does not involve risk assessment or risk management.

Category 2 NGT plants and products

These NGT plants and products are not equivalent to those produced by conventional breeding. They must undergo risk assessment and authorisation under the existing GMO rules.

Organic production

GMO crops and products may not be produced in organic production. NGT-1 plants are prohibited in organic production. However, the accidental and technically unavoidable presence of NGT-1 plants in organic products would not disqualify them from being considered organic.

Timeline

Provisions regulating the sale of NGT plants and products on the EU market will apply from **17 July 2028**. Until then, these products remain subject to the existing EU legislation on GMOs.

For more information see the [full record](#) on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest [AGRINFO Update](#) newsletters and [search](#) the database.

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