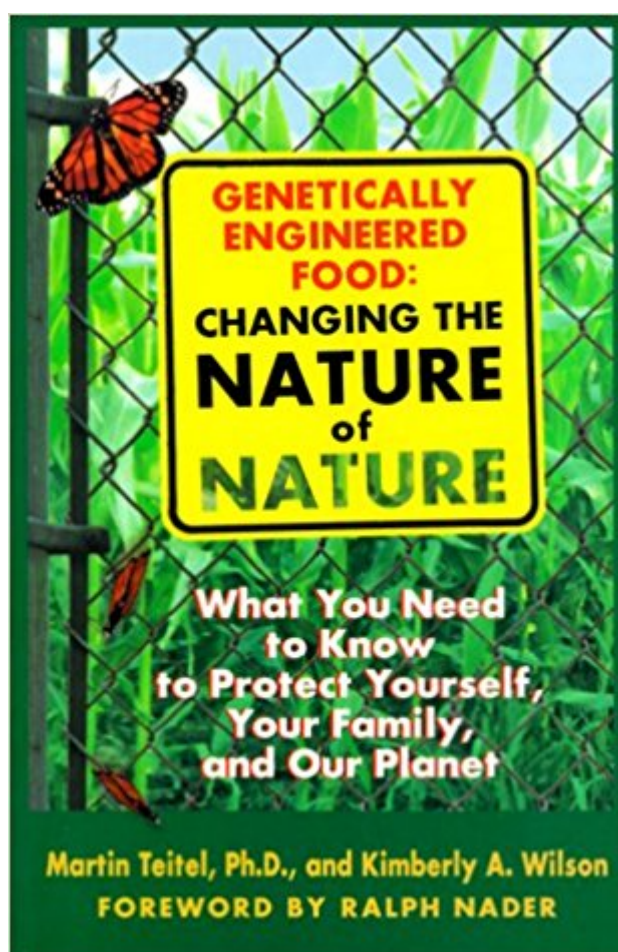


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# Genetically Engineered Food: Changing The Nature Of Nature: What You Need To Know To Protect Yourself, Your Family, And Our Planet



## Synopsis

The book that exposes the threat to our food supply from genetic engineering. \* Explains the dangers of these foods in easily understood terms. \* Provides a comprehensive guide to actions you can take to safeguard your food supply. 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 any normal plant. Where multinational corporations own the life forms that farmers grow and legally control the farmers' actions. That world exists. The above events are happening, and they are happening to us all. Genetically engineered foods-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, 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 and a handful of biotech corporations, working hand-in-hand, have actively encouraged their use while discouraging labeling that might alert consumers to what they are eating. *Genetically Engineered Food: Changing the Nature of Nature* is the first book to take a comprehensive look at the many ramifications of this dangerous science. Authors Martin Teitel and Kimberly Wilson explain what genetic engineering is and how it works, then explore the health risks involved with eating newly created lifeforms. 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 megacorporations 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

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 a response to persistent questions, with the burden of proof right on the companies. All this and more is why *Genetically Engineered Food: Changing the Nature of Nature* is so valuable for enlightening the public. -- Ralph Nader

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

Cuts through all the hype and misconceptions surrounding genetically engineered food and provides the indispensable primer. . . . 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*

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

In simple, straightforward language... guide readers through the questionable process of toying with a food's gene pool... -- *The Environmental Magazine*, January/February 2000

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*

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 Krimsky, 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.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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 Mansanto 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 doingbackground for The Magic Bean, a chapter on soy ( ).P>The importanceof 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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