

Transgenic Crop Issues within Academia. (A07-martin153318-Oral)

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Abstract:

Transgenic research creates new challenges for experiment station administrators. The Institutional Biosafety Committee must approve rDNA research. A USDA-APHIS permit may be required. University officials must obtain permission to use germplasm under proprietary research restrictions. Containment requirements must be determined: physical (fences), biological (removal of pollen-bearing parts, 1/8 mile or more separation), and/or chemical (herbicide to destroy plants, soil sterilization). Field, storage and handling equipment must be carefully cleaned to avoid commingling. If the experimental use permit allows, crop marketing arrangements must be made. Accurate research documentation is essential for disclosure of intellectual property, addressing regulatory concerns, or in the event of a law suit. Given the potential for eco-vandalism, plots should not be publicly accessible. Signage should not attract undue public attention. Other researchers and operators of adjacent farms should be consulted to avoid undesired gene flow. Police should provide surveillance to minimize bio-terrorism. Experiment station administrators should be informed of possible public relations issues.

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Presentation Information:

Presentation Date: Monday, November 11, 2002
Presentation Time: 3:45 pm

Keywords:

biotechnology, crop segregation, gene flow, biosecurity