

There are many ways to genetically modify plants, and most of our food uses at least one

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.**

Anti-GM dogma is obscuring the real debate over what level of genetic manipulation society deems acceptable. . . .

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Between organic foods and [tobacco engineered to glow in the dark](#) lie a broad spectrum of “modifications” worthy of consideration. . . .

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#### *Plant cloning*

. . . .[\[A\]sexual reproduction](#) is the core strategy for many plants in nature, and farmers have utilised it for centuries to perfect their crops.

Once a plant with desirable characteristics is found. . .cloning allows us to grow identical replicates. . . . if you eat a banana today, [you’re eating a clone](#).

#### *Induced mutations*

. . . . In order to generate greater variation for conventional breeding, scientists in the 1920s began to [expose seeds to chemicals or radiation](#).

. . . .Many common foods such as [red grapefruits and varieties of pasta wheat](#)are a result of this approach and, surprisingly, these can still be sold as certified “organic”.

#### *GM screening*

GM technology . . .can be instead used to screen for traits such as disease susceptibility or to identify which “natural” cross is likely to produce the greatest yield or best outcome. . . .

#### *Cisgenic and transgenic*

This is what most people mean when they refer to genetically modified organisms (GMOs). . . .

Cisgenic simply means the gene inserted (or moved, or duplicated) comes from the same or a very closely related species. Inserting genes from unrelated species (transgenic). . . is the only technique in our spectrum of GM technology that can produce an organism that could not occur naturally. Yet the case for

it might still be compelling.

**Read full, original post:** [All our food is 'genetically modified' in some way – where do you draw the line?](#)