

GMO 'agvocates' should stop 'mud slinging' about organics

[Editor's note: Terrance Bradshaw is a research associate at the University of Vermont and director of the university's Apple and Grape Program and Horticulture Research and Education Center. He has a Ph.D. in plant and soil science.]

When we take sides first and ask questions later, we risk falling on sloppy arguments ourselves. Painting any issue as black or white is a dangerous proposition. ... In my job, I have feet firmly planted in the organic and non-organic buckets, and I tend to operate in that middle ground between the two where sustainability truly lies.

...

All farmers, and often more so organic farmers, are very good at assessing these multiple, interacting forces that drive their management decisions. So when I see the argument made that, "so what, organic uses pesticides too," I cringe a little:

dirty dozen or type unknown

For example, this meme that is often tossed around as [evidence](#) that organic is as evil as non-organic does no one any service except to make agvocates feel better about themselves. But think about it. You're saying that organic pesticides are untested, and are just as bad or worse than non-organic pesticides. Sorry, that's bullshit on many levels.

First, any pesticide approved for organic that is sold commercially must undergo the exact same safety testing as non-organic pesticides. That means that they all are subjected to the same toxicity, carcinogenicity, reproductive, and ecological [effects](#). Period. So stop saying that organic pesticides aren't tested.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Agvocates: It's your turn to stop the mud slinging](#)