

## Faster growth, higher yields, heat and drought resistance — Is there anything gene-edited seeds can't do?

Israeli agtech start-up BetterSeeds distinguishes itself by its focus on a burning issue of the day that affects all crops – heat stress and drought, as a direct result of climate change.

BetterSeeds uses its own gene-editing technology based on Crispr – a “molecular scissor” that lets scientists change an organism’s DNA – to design seeds that can produce crops that mature faster, produce a higher yield and can adapt to changing climatic conditions.

In addition, the company’s unique gene-editing technology is designed to make the crops adaptable to automated harvesting, cutting the cost of the entire growth and harvesting process. Crispr technology has recently been declared – by regulatory authorities worldwide – as non-GMO.

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According to CEO Ido Margalit, the Holy Grail is to bring forward significantly the fruit-bearing timetable of perennial crops such as avocados.

“Turning fruit trees and other perennials into seasonal crops means they will take a short time to mature, cutting growing costs and greatly reducing the market risks caused by changing consumer tastes,” he said. “Because the trees will be smaller when they yield fruit, they will also be adapted to automated harvesting.”

[\*\*This is an excerpt. Read the original post here\*\*](#)