

Super-efficient short 'smart corn' capable of denser planting gets green light from USDA

[Bayer AG's genetically modified corn](#) has received safety approval from the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ([APHIS](#)).

The shorter-stature corn plants, known as the [Smart Corn System](#), are designed to be 30% smaller with the same yields.

Bayer CropScience modified the corn plant to reduce gibberellic acid, a plant growth hormone, to help protect crop yield loss from increased lodging (stem buckling) and greensnap tolerance in high winds and volatile weather.

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APHIS found the plant was unlikely to pose an increased plant pest risk compared to other cultivated corn plants and noted it could be safely grown and bred in the U.S.

According to [reports](#), Bayer said it still needs approval from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and importing countries before it can launch the corn in the U.S. The company expects the launch in the middle to later part of this decade.

U.S. farmers are already growing a separate, non-genetically modified version of short Bayer corn on about 30,000 acres this year as part of a large trial, according to the company. Bayer said it anticipates plantings of the non-GM version will double in its commercial launch next year.

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