

Questions and Answers: Monsanto's HT Canola (Event MON 88302)

APHIS received a petition from Monsanto, in July 2011, seeking a determination of nonregulated status for canola MON 88302 developed for tolerance to the herbicide glyphosate.

MON 88302 enhances glyphosate tolerance, allowing glyphosate to be used later in the growing season.

Q: What is Glyphosate?

A: Glyphosate is a commonly used herbicide used to kill weeds. When applied to glyphosate resistant crops, it helps control weeds without damaging the crop.

Q: Has canola MON 88302 been field tested in the U.S.?

A: Yes, it has been field tested in the major canola-growing regions of the United States. All field tests that have occurred in the United States were under permits, including strict movement controls, granted by APHIS.

Q: Why is APHIS making this petition available to the public?

A: This first comment period provides the public an opportunity to review the petition for nonregulated status and provide input that will be considered by APHIS as it develops its ensuing environmental assessment and plant pest risk assessment. APHIS will accept written comments regarding the petition for a determination of nonregulated status from interested or affected persons for a period of 60 days from the date of the Agency's notice in the *Federal Register*.

Q: What is the next step following the comment period?

A: After the comment period closes, APHIS will carefully consider all written comments received during the comment period and any other relevant information; any substantive issues identified by APHIS based on our review of the petition and our evaluation and analysis of comments will be considered in the development of the Agency's environmental assessment and plant pest risk assessment.

Q: Under APHIS' process, what does the Agency do after it prepares its draft assessments?

A: After the Agency prepares these documents, it makes them publicly available, providing a second 30-day opportunity for public input. The Agency then carefully reviews comments before any determination becomes final.

For more details on the petition process, go to:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/pet_proc_imp_info.shtml

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