



We stand for stewardship and innovation

representing Canada's plant science industry

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Re: Start or expand your garden this year, Bridge River-Lillooet News, Feb. 9, 2011

Bravo to Jane Carrico for drawing attention to the problem of world hunger and encouraging your community to get involved in gardening. Unfortunately, in that same article Ms. Carrico provided a significant amount of misinformation about genetically modified crops, which I'd like to clear up.

Here in Canada, genetically modified crops are thoroughly assessed by the federal government to ensure they are safe for people, animals, plants and the environment before they are approved for use. This process includes extensive safety reviews by both the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Health Canada and is part of why Canadians have one of the safest food supplies in the world.

GM crops play a crucial role in helping feed the world's growing population by increasing yields, but they also hold immense promise for the future. Take, for example, the health benefits they can bring to consumers by eliminating or reducing trans-fats; enhancing vitamin and antioxidant levels in fruits and vegetables and preventing blindness caused by nutritional deficiency in developing countries by increasing the amount of Vitamin A in rice.

Canada's plant science industry welcomes questions about the technologies it promotes and looks forward to future opportunities to set the record straight about the safety of genetically modified crops, as well as our industry's commitment to people, public health and the environment.

Sincerely,

Lorne Hepworth
President, CropLife Canada - *representing the plant science industry*

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working responsibly to protect people and the environment







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