



Size: 54.28 sq. cm.



Date: Wednesday, 19 October 2005
Page Number: 87
Edition: FIRST
Supplement: Main

Market: National
Circulation: 76,990
Published: WEEKLY
Editorial: [email the editor](#)
Item No: P7965964

GM wheat backlash fear

SYNGENTA Seeds has developed a genetically modified wheat but has not been able to release it for fear of a consumer backlash.

Syngenta Seeds senior development manager Rollie Sears said the GM wheat was capable of controlling fusarium head blight, a major disease in North Dakota and Manitoba in the US.

“If there were significant signals coming from Asian, US and Canadian consumers, companies such as Syngenta

would be more aggressive in pursuing GM technologies,” Dr Sears said.

“Until we get to that point where people are not afraid of what that technology represents, we will have a slow education and work process.

“Fusarium is a very, very difficult disease to control and has a significant impact on end-use quality.

“Maybe it’s a trait that the consumer will say they can see it reduces the disease and benefits them and allow it to be released.”