



FRANKENSTEIN TREES: Genetically Engineered Trees Threaten Indigenous Peoples, Forests, Human Health and Mother Earth

<https://stopgetrees.org/>

Indigenous Peoples of the world have struggled to stop genetically engineered corn. Now we must stop genetically engineered trees!

What are Genetically Engineered Trees?

Eucalyptus, pine and poplar trees are being genetically engineered with dangerous, unnatural traits to grow faster, produce pesticide, kill insects, resist fungus, tolerate cold temperatures, withstand herbicides like glyphosate, breakdown into sugar for ethanol, be supposedly “drought resistant,” and to absorb carbon dioxide. Industry wants to use GE trees for tree plantations, biofuels and false solutions to climate change like carbon markets. Brazil, China and the US are posed to commercialize GE trees worldwide. Thirty countries have tested GE trees. In 2023, GE trees were planted in a forest in the US.

THREATS OF GE TREES:

- **GE POLLEN and SEED CONTAMINATION**
GE tree pollen can travel 1800 milesⁱ and irreversibly contaminate natural trees, forests and insects as well as affect humans with allergies. Forests cover 30% of the Earth.ⁱⁱ
- **EXPANSION of TREE PLANTATIONS**
GE trees will be used to expand industrial tree plantations, which are already causing violations of indigenous peoples’ rights.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **LAND GRABS of Indigenous Peoples’ territories for GE tree plantations**
Tree plantations have caused land grabs all over the world.^{iv} GE trees could increase land grabs for tree plantations including of Indigenous Peoples’ territories.
- **DESTRUCTION OF BIODIVERSITY**
Destruction of native ecosystems for GE tree plantations will destroy biodiversity, soils and water. Indigenous Peoples’ territories include 80% of the biodiversity^v of the world, which could be destroyed by GE trees plantation expansion or harmed by GE tree pollen and seeds contaminating ecosystems and wildlife. Two-thirds of all species on Earth are found in natural forests,^{vi} and could be adversely affected by GE tree pollen and seed contamination.
- **MORE AGROTOXINS**
GE trees modified to tolerate agrottoxins like glyphosate will lead to large amounts of these chemicals being sprayed from airplanes, helicopters, or drones – poisoning air, water and indigenous communities. Indigenous Peoples have already suffered from glyphosate being sprayed on soy plantations and in the Colombian Amazon.
- **DRY UP WATER and INCREASE WILDFIRES**
GE trees made to grow faster will more rapidly dry up ground water and lead to wildfires. Eucalyptus and pine trees are very flammable trees. In droughts and heatwaves, these flammable trees can explode into fast-moving fires that destroy everything in their path.

DEFEND LIFE! BAN GE TREES NOW!

ⁱ Science Daily <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/04/100405091943.htm>

ⁱⁱ WWF. "Reforestation the Global South with WWF's Education for Nature and UPS". <https://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/deforestation-and-forest-degradation#:~:text=Forests%20cover%20approximately%20one%20third,world%20at%20an%20alarming%20rate>

ⁱⁱⁱ World Rainforest Movement <https://www.wrm.org.uy/>

^{iv} World Rainforest Movement <https://www.wrm.org.uy/>

^v WWF. Dr. *Kanyinke Sena*. *African Commission Working Group on Indigenous Populations*. <https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/recognizing-indigenous-peoples-land-interests-is-critical-for-people-and-nature>

^{vi} Science Advances. DOI: [10.1126/sciadv.aaw2869](https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.aaw2869)