Introduction to Transgenics



What Are Transgenic Organisms?

 A genetically modified organism (GMO), also known as a transgenic organism, is any organism whose genetic material has been altered using genetic engineering techniques



How Are Transgenic Organisms Made?

- Genes of one species can be modified, or genes can be transplanted from one species to another
- Recombinant DNA technology is used

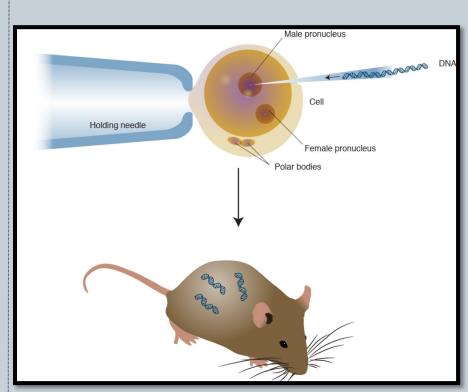


Image courtesy of the National Human Genome Research Institute

Uses for Transgenic Organisms

- Agriculture
- Herbicides
- Medicine
- Material production
- Vaccines
- Other
 - Pets (Glofish)
 - Colorful Flowers



GloFish are a genetically modified pet
Image courtesy of http://www.glofish.com/images/

The Fish-Tomato



- Arctic fish genes inserted into tomato
 - Why?

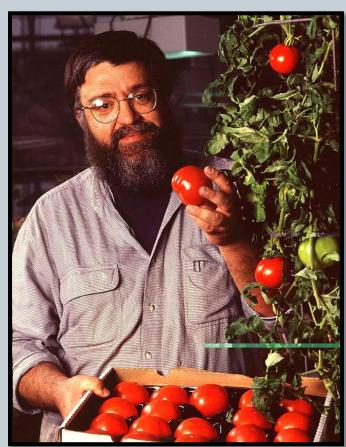


Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

The Fish-Tomato



- Arctic fish genes inserted into tomato
 - Added for freeze resistance and longer shelf life
 - Flavr Savr
 - Only available for short while

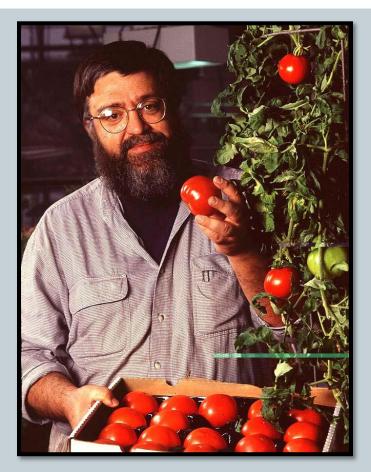


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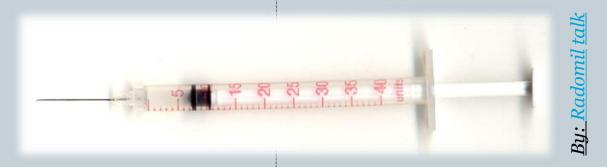
Other Examples of Transgenics



Bt Corn is resistant to caterpillars

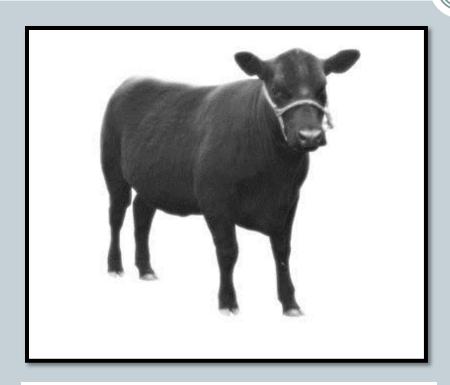


Golden rice has enhanced nutrition

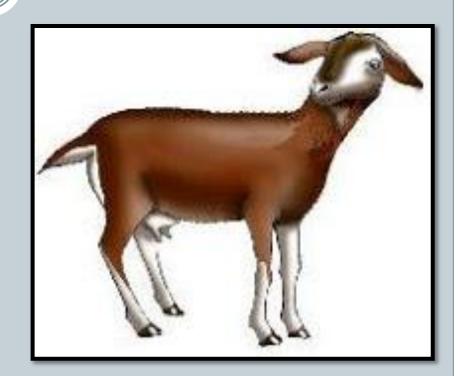


Human insulin made with recombinant DNA

Other Examples of Transgenics



Less flatulent cows to reduce methane emissions!



Spider silk-manufacturing goats! For eventual commercial production of spider silk.

Discussion Questions

- Should the creation of transgenic organisms be allowed?
 - Why or Why Not?
- Should there be limits on experimenting? Creating? Intellectual liabilities?
- Other questions?

