

Glyphosate resistance



Glyphosate resistance has been a growing concern for a number of years and for good reason. Glyphosate is the most important herbicide in use today and has been said to be as important to food production as penicillin is to medicine.

Glyphosate kills plants because it inhibits an enzyme called 5-enolpyruyl-shikimate-3-phosphate synthase—can you say that? Me neither.

This enzyme is referred to as EPSPS commonly and is essential to the creation of aromatic amino acids. Much research has been done to identify what it is that makes a plant resistant to glyphosate, and to my knowledge, there are basically three ways that have been identified.

They either have a mutation of the EPSPS gene, have a trait that bars glyphosate from ever reaching EPSPS at levels that are toxic to the plant, and more recently discovered is a method called gene amplification.

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