Stop Genetically Engineered Trees Petition

Sign on to Demand a ban on the sale of GE Eucalyptus Trees or any GE trees

To USDA/APHIS

I demand that the petition by GE tree company ArborGen requesting permission to commercially sell their GE eucalyptus trees be rejected. I further demand that any future such requests to release GE trees be rejected.

According to Rubicon--one of the companies that jointly founded ArborGen--if granted permission to sell these dangerous cold-tolerant GE eucalyptus trees, ArborGen plans to sell half a billion GE eucalyptus seedlings annually for planting in huge industrial plantations across the US South from Texas to South Carolina.

Eucalyptus trees are not native to the U.S. and are documented as invasive pests in California and Florida. The cold tolerance trait could vastly expand the range of this GE eucalyptus tree--and hence enhance its ability to invade native ecosystems. Experience in California, South Africa, Brazil and other parts of the world clearly demonstrates that when eucalyptus escape, it is next to impossible to eradicate them.

In addition, the U.S. Forest Service has stated that large-scale plantings of eucalyptus would use twice as much water as native forests. This is of particular concern in light of existing drought conditions in parts of the South.

Eucalyptus trees are extremely volatile and at high risk of catching fire. Wildfires in Oakland California in 1991 and in Australia in 2009, fueled by eucalyptus trees, killed scores of people and caused billions in losses.

The fatal fungal pathogen, *Crytococcus Gattii* has been found in the U.S. It can cause fatal fungal meningitis among people and animals that inhale its spores. One of the eucalyptus species used in the GE eucalyptus hybrids is a known host for *Cryptococcus Gattii*. Creating habitat for this fatal fungal pathogen is very dangerous.

ArborGen's deregulation petition must be rejected and all of their GE eucalyptus field trials removed before it is too late.

Name	Email	City and State

Please print legibly!