

USDA Approves Field Testing of ArborGen Freeze Tolerant Eucalyptus

Today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced the approval of two ArborGen permit applications for planting and growing genetically engineered (GE) eucalyptus trees. The decision will allow ArborGen to continue its research on the genetically engineered traits in the eucalyptus, including cold tolerance. The permits authorize the confined planting of the eucalyptus trees on 29 sites with 28 of the sites allowing trees to flower.

APHIS reached a finding of no significant impact to the environment after preparing an environmental assessment (EA) that included an in-depth scientific analysis of the confinement measures to manage potential plant pest risk and environmental impacts of the field research studies being conducted on sites in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas.

Formal notification of this decision can be found in the May 12, 2010, edition of The Federal Register and it becomes effective upon publication. This notice can viewed on the BRS website at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/fr_notices.shtml.

If you have any questions, please contact us at:
biotechquery@aphis.usda.gov.