

**From:** jenll10@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Friday, December 18, 2009 2:08 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment on DOJ's "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues"

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US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

I grew up helping neighbors sort seed for the next year's planting. Produce was abundant and fed us all. Seed from the most-prolific plants was kept, the "stragglers" was not. Grafting was done in the same fashion, and thus in a natural, cyclic way, only the best plants and varieties survived.

Monsanto has bought seed companies and patented varieties, gaining control of almost 90% of seed genetics. This is anticompetitive behavior that skews markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will.

But of even greater concern is the fact that even though these modified seeds are infertile - they won't reproduce for the next season - they can cross-pollinate traditional and even organic crops, rendering them infertile and contaminated with genetic engineering.

And, while Monsanto has acquired a diverse store of seed genetics, they are only making available a few seeds that are genetically modified to be dependent on their chemicals.

The same way we protect animal species from extinction, we should protect plant species, especially the tens of thousands of food varieties, from companies like Monsanto that are consciously eliminating them.

I urge you to please include in your investigation a consideration of the importance keeping seeds, the foundation of human life, at least in the marketplace, if not in the public domain where they truly belong.

Sincerely,

Jenelle Hardin