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On the cover

An earthy image of wheat seeds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's research branch symbolizes the attempts underway, in both government-funded and private sector research, to genetically modify grains and other foods to mitigate the harmful effects of insects and disease on crops while lengthening shelf life and altering processing, nutritional, and even taste characteristics. The issues surrounding genetically modified foods, including GM food labeling and the policy discourse surrounding scientific precaution, are explored in two articles in this issue. Reprinted with permission from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service. Photo by Scott Bauer.

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