

What's In Your Bag?

The difference between Spectrum Non-GMO seed and conventional seed and why it matters.

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Spectrum Premium Non-GMO Seed Corn**

In the seed industry, the distinction between Non-GMO seed and conventional seed isn't always made apparent. However, there are discernible differences between the two types of seed—differences that could impact your bottom line come harvest.

At Spectrum, those differences begin with seed production. Spectrum only produces Non-GMO seed. Our seed has not been altered with traits and is produced based upon strict production procedures that allow us to classify our seed as **Identity Preserved** seed. To earn this distinction, seed must be at a minimum 99% free of trait contamination.

The Spectrum IP process begins with pure seed that must meet strict quality characteristics previously defined and consistently documented by a state-certified third party agency. Specific guidelines of Spectrum's IP program include:

- Seed production fields must maintain a certain distance from other corn pollen;
- Bordering production blocks must include so many feet of pollen inbred and/or so many feet of a non-corn crop;
- Parent lines must be maintained in separate facilities from products that could potentially contaminate;
- Parent lines must be produced in a similar manner to help prevent crossing with genetically modified lines or other corn genetic impurities;



- Seed must be produced on land that did not grow GMO corn the previous season;
- Seed production fields must be inspected multiple times during the growing season by a third-party certification agency;
- Seed must be packaged in Non-GMO facilities that limit any chance of contamination with GMO; and,
- Seed must be clearly labeled as Non-GMO

Like Non-GMO seed, conventional seed is not altered with traits. However, conventional seed is not produced following **Identity Preserved** standards which means the seed that ends up in the bag could be contaminated. If you've signed a contract that requires a certain level of purity, your grain could be compromised and possibly refused at the elevator.

If your goal is to manage your corn acres with seed free from trait contamination, you're going to want to purchase seed that's earned the Identity Preserved status, meaning it has the highest rating for purity. It's also a good idea to know in advance the elevator's purity requirement as that can vary from contract to contract.

