

# Du Pont Discovers Sulfonylurea-Tolerant Gene



ROCHELLE, IL — New "STS" soybeans carry a gene that has enhanced sulfonylurea herbicide tolerance, opening the door for improved cost-effective, reliable, and environmentally compatible weed control.

Du Pont unveiled the discovery here at its agricultural research station, where the results of the six-year research effort were seen growing in the field.

"When certain sulfonylurea

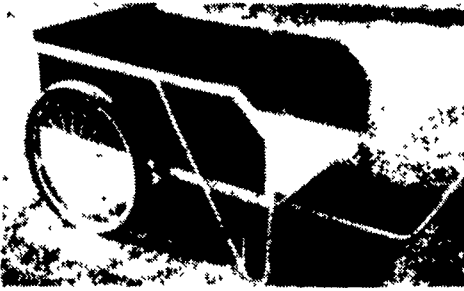
herbicides are applied to a field of soybeans, the effect is stunning," said Scott Sebastian, Du Pont plant breeder. "Rows of STS soybeans thrive in a totally weed-free environment, while rows of non-tolerant beans are severely damaged by the same use rates."

The dramatic demonstration is the result of a project to actively select for soybeans with enhanced sulfonylurea tolerance. Researchers identified a soybean plant that

contains a modified acetolactate synthase (ALS) enzyme that is not inhibited by sulfonylurea herbicides. The soybean gene, Alsl, carries the sulfonylurea-tolerant trait. "Other gene traits, such as protein and oil content and other key marker enzymes, remain unchanged in the new sulfonylurea-tolerant soybeans," said Sebastian.

"Sulfonylurea herbicides are (Turn to Page D15)

"When certain sulfonylurea herbicides are applied to a field of soybeans, the effect is stunning," said Scott Sebastian, Du Pont plant breeder, above. "Rows of 'STS' soybeans (background), thrive in a totally weed-free environment, while rows of non-tolerant beans (foreground) are severely damaged by the same use rates."

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