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GMO

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Soy plants. Pixabay

Mexico Revokes Monsanto's Permit to Market GMO Soy in Seven States

Monsanto (<https://www.ecowatch.com/tag/monsanto>) has lost its permit to commercialize genetically modified (<https://www.ecowatch.com/gmo-genetically-modified-organism/>) (GMO) soy in seven Mexican states, Reuters (<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-monsanto-mexico/monsanto-says-mexico-revokes-permit-to-market-gmo-soy-in-seven-states-idUSKBN1DO0BC>) reported.

Mexico's agriculture sanitation authority SENASICA revoked the permit—a decision that the St. Louis-based seed giant called unjustified.

Citing a SENASICA document, Mexican newspaper Reforma reported that the permit was revoked after authorities detected Monsanto's GMO soy in unauthorized areas.

But Monsanto rejected that argument. According to a statement seen by Reuters, the company claimed that the authorities did not analyze how the soy on which their decision was based was sown.

Monsanto alleged that the permit was withdrawn on unwarranted legal and technical grounds and warned that it would take the necessary steps to safeguard its rights and those of farmers using the technology.

The permit revocation applies to the states of Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosi, Veracruz, Chiapas, Campeche, Yucatan and Quintana Roo.

Monsanto's presence in Mexico has a storied history (<https://www.ecowatch.com/monsanto-handed-double-whammy-by-mexican-courts-over-planting-gmos-1882118328.html>), especially over corn, the country's staple crop. The company has long wanted to grow corn in the country but earlier this year, a Mexican court upheld a

img.youtube.com (<https://img.youtube.com/vi/1yqDSQmbHZ8/maxresdefault.jpg>)

Underground Farm Pays Rent in Heat it Supplies to Building Above (<https://www.ecowatch.com/underground-farm-sweden-2515934438.html>)

Vertical farms (<https://www.ecowatch.com/tag/vertical-farms>) have been touted as a way to feed a rapidly urbanizing world population (I've waxed poetic (<https://www.ecowatch.com/5-ways-vertical-farms-are-changing-the-way-we-grow-food-1882019986.html>) about them myself.) Critics (https://www.salon.com/2016/02/17/enough_with_the_vertical_farming_partner/) of the trending technology, however, contend that these energy-intensive hubs are too costly and perhaps impractical to maintain.

Sure, the naysayers have a point, but what if vertical farms did more than just feed mouths? In Stockholm, Sweden, the Plantagon (<http://www.plantagon.com/>) CityFarm located in the basement of the iconic DN-Skrapan building in the Kungsholmen district has a whole other purpose besides nourishing the office workers on site—the farm also recycles its heat to warm the offices above.

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(<https://www.ecowatch.com/arctic-national-wildlife-refuge-drilling-2515927608.html>)

Herd of caribou on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. *Izuru Toki / Flickr*

While America Focuses on Tax Bill, Congress Quietly Tries to Open Arctic Refuge to Oil Drilling (<https://www.ecowatch.com/arctic-national-wildlife-refuge-drilling-2515927608.html>)

The U.S. Senate has passed a Republican tax-reform package that contains a provision to authorize oil drilling on the coastal plain of Alaska's Arctic (<http://www.ecowatch.com/tag/arctic>) National Wildlife Refuge, placing the biological heart of one of our last pristine, untouched places in severe peril.

"This vote to deface and pollute one of the nation's last pristine and untouched wild landscapes is outrageous," said Jamie Williams, president of The Wilderness Society (<http://wilderness.org/>), in a statement after the Senate passed the tax package. "The Arctic Refuge drilling provision has no legitimate place in a tax bill, and this backdoor political deal now threatens to destroy the crown jewel of our National Wildlife Refuge System."

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