

This is a preliminary report from the Dutch CA on the ongoing research into potential GM orange petunia's.

The Dutch Inspectorate has contacted the suppliers mentioned in the ENVIRA report (Dümmen Orange B.V. (partner of Dümmen GmbH), Florensis B.V., Syngenta B.V. and Takii Europe B.V.). According to them, they had already ceased commercial activities, and informed their customers to follow suit. The Inspectorate has taken samples of all available varieties mentioned in the ENVIRA report (Go!Tunia Orange, African Sunset, Saguna Patio salmon, Sanguna Salmon and Cascadias Indian Summer) as well as several suspected petunias (Viva Organge, Viva Fire, Viva Orange Vein), and negative controls (a white and blue variety from one of the suppliers). These samples have been analysed by the Dutch Research Institute for Agriculture and Horticulture (RIKILT). They tested according to an accredited method for plant actin (positive controle), plasmid DNA markers (P-35S, T-35S, P-nos, T-OCS and NPTII) and a negative controle CaMV. The results confirm the data of ENVIRA, that the Go!Tunia Orange and African Sunset are GM-plants and that Cascadias Indian Summer was negative for all plasmid elements tested. Furthermore, the Sanguna Salmon was confirmed as a GM-plant, but the Sanguna Patio Salmon does not contain the plasmid DNA markers. In addition, all three Viva varieties were confirmed to be GM-petunia's. One of the suppliers (Dümmen Orange) had shipped all their stock to Dümmen GmbH in Germany, where they will be studied by the local CA.

In a meeting between the Dutch Inspectorate and the four parties mentioned above, the Inspectorate has asked full information on all customers that they sold GM-petunia's to (national and international), the pedigree and the original source of the GM-petunia's from which these plants were bred. This information will become available soon. From this meeting it became clear that the orange petunia's have been on the market world-wide for more than 10 years.

The Inspectorate has asked the Dutch Advisory Board on Genetic Modification (COGEM) for an environmental risk assessment as well as the preferred method of destruction of these plants. This advice will be drafted soon.

The Inspectorate has forbidden marketing of all GM Orange petunia's and instructed the suppliers mentioned above to inform all their customers to return stock that is not sold. The suppliers will take care of the appropriate destruction of the plants once we received advice on preferred method from the COGEM.