

# GOLDEN RICE

## The nonsense concerning Golden Rice to prevent blindness in children

**There has been a misleading story peddled by some in the Biotech (gene-tech) industry and also by a few who work at the CSIRO in Australia. These people claim that they intend to genetically engineer a variety of rice called GOLDEN RICE. This Golden Rice is for poor people in the third world; for which they must pay royalties on patents. The storytellers claim that children will then not suffer blindness because of their deficiency in vitamin A.**

This Golden Rice is supposed to contain a gene from daffodils that should produce beta-carotene that the body can use to synthesise vitamin A; but only if there are enough fats or oils present in the body to aid the synthesis of vitamin A. People in the third world where this Golden Rice is to be sold can seldom afford fats or oils in their diets anyway. The DNA in the Golden Rice is of course patented so royalties must be paid before it is eaten. Having to pay royalties for patented rice is of course just what the third world needs.

The biotech industry has spent \$millions on developing Golden Rice. However, there is a Vitamin A pill that costs about U.S10 cents per person per year that will cure any deficiency in vitamin A. It would cost less than \$100,000 per year for all those throughout the world with a vitamin A deficiency. This is well known by the biotech industry; but by genetically engineering Golden Rice they can then demand royalties on patents.

It is a pity that some of these genetic engineers and the likes of Monsanto can't be a little more honest about what is behind Golden Rice. I have no problem with technology as such. It is technology that gave us the non-stick Teflon coated fry pan and how could we live without that – even if most of us have long since eaten the non-stick Teflon off the non-stick pan.

There is a humble leafy green plant called chicory. Chicory is often of a dark green colour and somewhat like lettuce but much easier to grow and it has a blue flower whereas lettuce has a yellow flower. Chicory leaf probably carries more vitamin A and Iron than any other plant. Chicory also contains many other vitamins and minerals. If you can grow weeds you can grow chicory. *Just Google Chicory*, and be amazed.

Our own CSIRO in Australia knows a lot about chicory as they did research on chicory by feeding it to lambs and found that the lambs did amazingly well on chicory – something like doubling their size in a fraction the time than did the control group of lambs; and they were super healthy and it was just because of the chicory.

Since that research we don't hear much about that chicory/lamb experiment but a few years back i did hear one scientist from the CSIRO say that the CSIRO intended to genetically engineer sheep so as the sheep would grow larger faster. GM sheep - Whoopee!

Perhaps the problem with chicory is that it is too easy to grow. My guess is that a small garden plot of less than one square metre would produce enough chicory to keep a family supplied with more vitamin A than they would ever need. They would have in their diet all the vitamin A and Iron they need plus many other vitamins and minerals year in year out. Yes and your body can absorb the nutrients from chicory.

The silence about the cheap **vitamin A pill** or **chicory** is strange because they are not high-tech solutions and also they are very simple and affordable? Concerning chicory, just a small plot of the plants and about 1 to 3 jugs of water per week depending on the weather, is all you need to grow your own vitamin A and Iron. Then what you need to do is add a little chicory cooked or raw, chopped into meals from time-to-time and it would load any person with vitamin A plus Iron and other vitamins and minerals; perhaps it's TOO simple.

**You can learn more about chicory and a way to make a delicious chicory salad at [www.DNAalert.net](http://www.DNAalert.net)**

Chicory is not yet genetically manipulated so no person owns the DNA which means there are no patents involved for Monsanto or Bayer or Syngenta or Dow et alia and so there would be no royalties on chicory as there would be on the GM farce called *Genetically Manipulated Golden Rice*.

**Golden Rice is a patented nonsense – The cost for Vitamin A pills for those who need them is a pittance and chicory is just so easy to grow, it is cheap, nutritious and Non-GM!**

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