

# TRANSGENIC CROPS AND WILDLIFE

John R. Anderson Jr.

---

*AUTHORS:* Monsanto Company. Email: JOHN.R.ANDERSON@monsanto.com.

*REFERENCE:* J.E. Hook (ed.) *Proceedings of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Southern Conservation Tillage Conference for Sustainable Agriculture*, Tifton, GA. 6-8 July 1999. Georgia Agriculture Experiment Station Special Publication 95, Athens, GA.

---

Biotechnology is revolutionizing agriculture. Since transgenic crops offer control of weed and insect pests with unprecedented simplicity and economic benefits, growers have rapidly adopted these technologies. Easily overlooked is the fact that transgenic crops can generate significant environmental benefits that translate into improved wildlife habitat. In addition to reducing insecticide use, the products of biotechnology are catalyzing grower adoption of no-tillage crop production systems that improve water quality as they reduce soil erosion and fossil fuel usage.

No-tillage systems positively influence habitat quality for wildlife species like the bobwhite quail. The tandem of transgenic crops and no-tillage production methods form the foundation of a new vision for agricultural landscapes. In that vision, profitable, innovative cropping systems (ultra-narrow row cotton, for example) are managed alongside filter strips, field borders and riparian areas in agricultural enterprises that are both profitable and beneficial to wildlife.