

Organic Bytes • Weekly Newsletter of the Organic Consumers Association

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How Did Apeel Get Into USDA Organic?

How'd Apeel get into USDA Organic? Ask the Organic Materials Review Institute...

Apeel, a mysterious Bill Gates and World Economic Forumbacked food coating that makes rotting produce appear fresh, is approved for use on USDA Organic produce under the name Organipeel.

The Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) gave it the green light, presumably based on citric acid being the active ingredient. Citric acid is a non-organic ingredient allowed in organic as long as it isn't synthetic, but it's only 0.66 percent of the Organipeel formulation!

At first blush, concerns about Apeel seemed like fake news. Fact checkers were quick to point out that the safety data sheet circulating the internet was for a different product with the same name, not for the edible food coating backed by Bill Gates and the World Economic Forum that was raising hackles on social media.

But, when members of the Organic Consumers Association alerted us to news that Apeel's is being used in organic, we had to investigate.

Read more and Take Action: https://orgcns.org/43BDOk1

Mexico's Quest for Food Sovereignty in the Face of U.S. Agricultural Dumping

Timothy Wise writes for The Institute for Agriculture and Trade:

"Mexico's rising levels of import dependence are closely related to the flood of cheap imports from the U.S. since NAFTA. Cheap imported crops and animal products can displace domestically produced goods. Even when they don't, they put downward pressure on local prices, making it harder for domestic producers to earn a living from their farms while reducing incentives to produce.

Read more: https://orgcns.org/3N79pof

Urban Gardens, Flowerpots Help Bees and Butterflies More Than You Think

Sheri McWhirter writes for MLive:

"Every pollen-producing flower pot helps support bees and butterflies, even those in cities surrounded by more concrete than natural landscapes.

Researcher Kevin Matteson spent years studying pollinator insects in urban areas such as New York City, Chicago, and other metropolitan places. He recently spoke with native plant advocates from across Michigan about how important small gardens and well-placed flowerpots in urban settings are to supporting bees and butterflies.

It turns out city-dwelling insects do their job for the food web just like their countryside counterparts. They also benefit from both native plants and exotic flowers, research shows."

Read more: https://orgcns.org/45AERm9

People Exposed to Glyphosate Have Cancer Biomarkers in Urine – Study

Carey Gillam writes for the Guardian:

"New research by top US government scientists has found that people exposed to the widely used weedkilling chemical glyphosate have biomarkers in their urine linked to the development of cancer and other diseases.

The study, published last week in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, measured glyphosate levels in the urine of farmers and other study participants and determined that high levels of the pesticide were associated with signs of a reaction in the body called oxidative stress, a condition that causes damage to DNA."

Read more: https://orgcns.org/43Eje2f

TAKE ACTION: Tell Congress to Ban Monsanto/Bayer's

Roundup Weedkiller: https://orgcns.org/2KjYVnl

Pipeline Company Spent Big on Police Gear to Use Against Standing Rock Protesters

Alleen Brown, Naveena Sadasivam write for Intercept in partnership with Grist:

"Native leaders and activists, calling themselves water protectors, wanted to show the newly elected President Donald Trump that they would continue to fight for their treaty rights to lands including the pipeline route. The march would be called "Native Nations Rise."

Law enforcement was getting ready, too — and discussing plans with Energy Transfer, the parent company of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Throughout much of the uprising against the pipeline, the National Sheriffs' Association talked routinely with TigerSwan, Energy Transfer's lead security firm on the project, working hand-in-hand to craft pro-pipeline messaging. A top official with the sheriffs' public relations contractor, Off The Record Strategies, floated a plan to TigerSwan's lead propagandist, a man named Robert Rice."

Read more: https://orgcns.org/45DySwJ

Say No to mRNA in Your Food

Children's Health Defense News, Excerpt from article by Dr Mercola:

"So, while it may seem convenient to genetically engineer cows without horns to prevent injury to other cows and farmhands, as suggested by Lurie and Ellikidis, there's no telling what that tweak might do to internal organs or biological pathways.

In turn, there's no guarantee that cascading effects will not alter the nutrition of the meat or dairy that comes from that cow. Maybe it'll be fine, maybe it won't. The problem is that, oftentimes with genetically engineered foods, safety testing is minimal or absent."

Read more: https://orgcns.org/43hlUTU