



REUTERS/THIERRY ROGE

European Union to let countries ban GMO crops

Brussels, Belgium –

Above, a Greenpeace activist displays signs symbolizing genetically modified corn crops during a protest in front of the European Union headquarters in Brussels. This month, EU politicians backed a plan to allow nations to ban genetically modified crops on their soil even if they are given approval to be grown in the European Union, raising the chance their use will remain limited on the continent.

Widely grown in the Americas and Asia, genetically modified crops in Europe have divided opinion, with opposition in many countries including France and Germany, while Britain favors them. Earlier this month Oregon voters narrowly rejected a proposal to require manufacturers to label products if they

contain genetically modified, or GMO crops.

A previous compromise endorsed this year by EU ministers would have required negotiation with the relevant companies if a nation wanted to ban a GMO crop in the event it had been approved for EU-wide use.

The plan voted through parliament on Tuesday would leave out that stage and allows member states to ban GMO crops on environmental grounds.

“(This) vote would give European countries a legally solid right to ban GMO cultivation in their territory, making it difficult for the biotech industry to challenge such bans in court,” Marco Contiero, Greenpeace EU agriculture policy director, said.

Street News Service, www.streetnewsservice.org

Home for the Holidays

By: Sean Sheffield

I look forward to the smell of Thanksgiving dinner accumulating through down town Portland. It reminds me of my youth. Growing up in Phoenix riding my bike with my friends on a cold wet Thanksgiving morning. We rode through the muddy alleys racing each other or trying to out run the neighborhood bullies. The smell of turkey and pies making our nostrils flare and our stomachs growl. Even today being a thousand miles away every Thanksgiving. When I wake up on the cold wet Portland morning the smell of turkey lets me know that I am home.

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Raking Leaves

by Ed Edmo

I raked leaves today
Rake scraping asphalt
Churning
Memories hurting
Gathering dead leaves
Memories
Pieces of old self
Thrown away
Brown memories
Kept for
Another day

I rake leaves
In a different way

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