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July 8, 2010

## **E.P.A. Fines Monsanto \$2.5 Million**

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The [Monsanto Company](#) agreed to pay the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) a \$2.5 million penalty for selling mislabeled bags of genetically engineered seed.

The E.P.A. said it was the largest fine ever imposed under a law that regulates [pesticides](#) and [fungicides](#).

From 2002 to 2007, Monsanto improperly sold its Bollgard and Bollgard II cotton seeds in 10 Texas counties where the seeds were banned, according to the E.P.A. The cotton seeds are regulated as pesticides because they kill insects, and the seeds were banned in parts of Texas to avoid growing pest resistance to them. The ban has since been lifted.

Monsanto informed the E.P.A. it was selling seeds in the 10 Texas counties, even though the company was supposed to label the seeds as banned in those areas, the E.P.A. said.

Monsanto later changed its cotton seed labels to reflect the ban.