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Plant Growth Hormones

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Plant Growth Hormones

The farmer of the future may one day spray chemicals that would simultaneously increase growth of specific crops while killing competing weeds, according to Dr. Robert Bandurski of Michigan State University.

"But most of the auxin molecules normally found in plants are in a bound form," Dr. Bandurski explained. "They are attached to some other molecule - an X factor."

Until recently, the X factor was unknown because it was split off by harsh chemical purification techniques.

Using new purification and analysis techniques, scientists in Dr. Bandurski's laboratory have uncovered the missing X factor.

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