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Food biotechnology

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Plant biotechnology

Edited by Birger Lindberg Møller and R George Ratcliffe

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A low content of the hemicellulose xylan is desirable for production of biofuels from lignocellulosic biomass. However, mutants with less xylan, such as *Arabidopsis irx7* have collapsed xylem vessels and show decreased growth compared to the wild type. The photo shows an *irx7* mutant plant complemented with a functional copy of the *IRX7* gene driven by the vessel-specific promoter pVND7. The plant has normal growth and xylem structure but retains a decreased xylan content. (Photo by Pia Damm Petersen and Henrik V. Scheller).

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