

## **How to certify that *Neurospora* is nonhazardous.**

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### **Background**

Never in more than 100 years of observation and experimentation have fungi of the genus *Neurospora* been implicated in human disease or observed to cause disease in animals or plants.

Under some circumstances, certification may be requested that *Neurospora* is not pathogenic or hazardous. Documentation may be requested by regulatory agencies such as the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which regulates the import and shipping of living organisms. Other agencies may be concerned with workplace safety.

Perkins and Davis (2000) gathered evidence for the safety of *Neurospora*. This is the only published document addressing these issues. The paper cites a 1989 ruling by an official of the U. S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service that “*Neurospora* species are not subject to Federal Plant Pest Act regulations”. If needed, a PDF copy of the paper can be obtained through Highwire Press <http://highwire.stanford.edu/lists/freart.dtl>.

Efforts are under way to establish *Neurospora crassa* as a GRAS organism ("Generally Regarded as Safe") according to guidelines published by the FDA (U.S. Food and Drug Administration).

### **Reference**

Perkins, D. D., and R. H. Davis. 2000. Evidence for safety of *Neurospora* species for academic and commercial uses. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* 66: 5107-5109.

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