

LIGHT PRODUCTION

- It is possible for plants to be engineered to be bioluminescent, through the incorporation of a luciferase gene. Besides novelty, potential future uses for this product include low-impact “green” lighting sources for city streets, acting as a replacement for electricity-powered street lamps (Swain 2010). Concerns about this technology include questions about brightness and how these plants will affect humans as well as other species if the light production is always expressed, especially if the plants will grow away from human habitats.
- Is this product intended to be used as an energy (light) source?
- If so, how bright will the light be? Will the light be constitutively expressed?

REFERENCES:

- Swain, F. (2010). Glowing trees could light up city streets. *New Scientist*, 208(2788), 21.