

Application for consultation to determine the status of a novel food pursuant to Article 4(2) of the Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on novel foods.

Recipient Member State

Finnish Food Authority

Name and description of the food in question

The request concerns (young) shoots of wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) (wheatgrass).

Wheatgrass refers to young shoots of wheat, which are grown in a growing medium like other greenhouse salads. The growing time of shoots varies depending on the growing conditions, hence about 1-3 weeks. Wheat shoots are about 5-20 cm in length when brought on the market. Wheat shoots are brought to market as fresh produce with the growing medium or as pre-packed foods cut off from the growing medium.

Status

Not novel

Food category

Not applicable

Reasons statement

Competent authorities of the EU Member States and the European Commission were consulted.

Wheatgrass is one of the most used shoots, either fresh or as juice. According to the Novel Food Catalogue of the European Commission wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) has been used as food within the EU before 15 May 1997. Also, wheatgrass juice, which is produced by juicing the young shoots of wheat just before the jointing stage, and powders thereof, have significant history of consumption within the EU.

Conclusion

Wheat shoots (wheatgrass) are not novel.