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**DEVELOPMENTAL REGULATION OF GA BIOSYNTHESIS DURING GERMINATION AND EARLY SEEDLING GROWTH OF PEA**

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To understand how gibberellin (GA) biosynthesis is regulated during early seedling development in large-seeded dicotyledonous plants, the gene expression patterns of a family of GA biosynthesis genes and endogenous GA levels were examined in pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) during germination and early post-germination stages. Our data support the emerging hypothesis that bioactive GA is minimized in the developing embryo to allow for seed maturation processes to proceed. One day after imbibition, a dramatic change in the expression patterns of these GA biosynthesis genes occurred in the embryo axis for increased capacity to produce bioactive GA for embryo axis expansion. Specific expression of these GA biosynthesis genes in roots and shoots and changes in the levels of GA<sub>20</sub>, GA<sub>1</sub>, and GA<sub>8</sub> in young seedlings support a key role for *de novo* GA biosynthesis in early, post-germination growth phases of the pea seedling.