PLANT HORMONES AND DROUGHT STRESS IN MAIZE

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Phytohormones are potent metabolites used by plants as tools to instigate metabolic or developmental change. A greater understanding of plant hormone function, therefore, has the potential to allow manipulation of plant form, productivity and response to stress. Furthermore, changes in hormone concentration are important diagnostic tools for assessing the metabolic state of plants. Through a collaboration with the National Research Council of Canada, we monitor the accumulation of the major classes of hormones during key developmental stages in the development of hybrid corn. Understanding changes in the flux of individual hormones in response to stress presents targets for engineering through transgenic technologies that have the potential to improve plant performance.