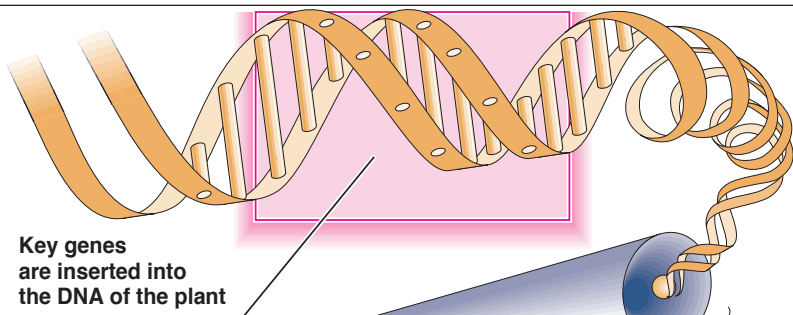
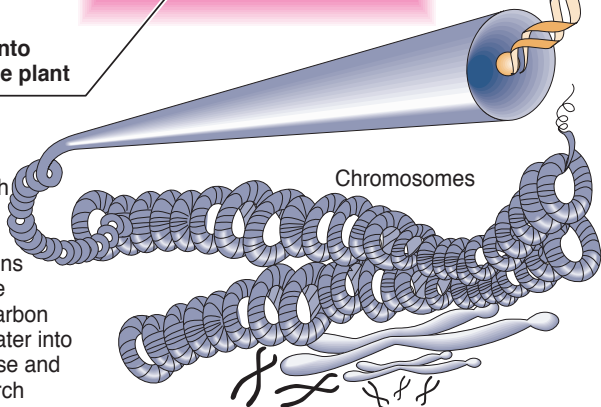


Making plastic out of plants

Genetically engineered plants which produce environmentally friendly plastic could become a new and profitable cash crop for farmers. The plastic, called PHB or polyhydroxybutyrate, is a biodegradable material which has been used in Germany and Britain since 1990 for packaging hair-care products

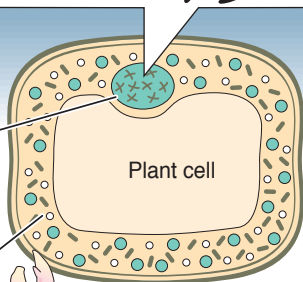


DNA is the chemical which contains the blueprint to produce proteins and control the synthesis of carbon dioxide and water into oxygen, glucose and eventually starch



Nucleus of cell containing chromosomes

The plant cell produces and stores PHB instead of starch



GRAPHIC NEWS

PHB – used for packaging – breaks down when buried to become a food source for micro-organisms

