

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
EASTERN DIVISION

MONSANTO COMPANY and	)	
	)	
MONSANTO TECHNOLOGY LLC,	)	
	)	
Plaintiffs,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	CIVIL ACTION NO.
	)	
ZEFERINO SAUCEDA,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

**COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

Plaintiffs Monsanto Company and Monsanto Technology LLC (“Monsanto”), for their Complaint against Zeferino Saucedo (“Defendant”), make the following allegations:

**THE PLAINTIFFS**

**Monsanto Company**

1. Monsanto Company is a company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business in St. Louis, Missouri. It is authorized to do and is doing business in Missouri and this judicial district.

2. Monsanto Company is in the business of developing, manufacturing, licensing, and selling agricultural biotechnology, agricultural chemicals, and agricultural products. After the investment of substantial time, expense, and expertise, Monsanto Company developed a plant biotechnology that involves the transfer of a gene into crop seed that causes the plant to be resistant to glyphosate-based herbicides such as Roundup Ultra®, Roundup UltraMAX®, Roundup WeatherMAX®, and Touchdown®. Monsanto also developed a separate biotechnology that results in plants which produce *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) insecticidal

proteins that control some insect species, including budworms, bollworms, and armyworms.

3. This biotechnology has been utilized by Monsanto Company in cotton. The genetically improved cotton is marketed by Monsanto Company under several trade names, including Roundup Ready® cotton and Bollgard® cotton.

4. Monsanto's Roundup Ready® cotton biotechnology is protected under United States Patent Numbers 5,352,605 and RE 39,247 E, which are attached hereto as Exhibits A and B. The 5,352,605 and RE 39,247 E patents (commonly referred to as the '605 and '247 patent) were issued prior to the events giving rise to this action.

5. Monsanto's Bollgard® biotechnology is protected under the '605 patent.

6. Monsanto Company is and has been the exclusive licensee of the '605 and '247 patents from Monsanto Technology LLC.

#### **Monsanto Technology LLC**

7. Monsanto Technology LLC is a company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business in St. Louis, Missouri.

8. Monsanto Technology LLC is and has been the owner of the '605 and '247 patents prior to the events giving rise to this action.

#### **THE DEFENDANT**

9. Defendant Zeferino Saucedo is an individual who resides in Slaton, Texas 79364.

10. Defendant is engaged in a farming business that involves the planting of crops, including cotton. The Defendant farms land in Lubbock County, Texas.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

11. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the United States of America, 35 U.S.C. § 1, et. seq., including 35 U.S.C. § 271. This court has subject

matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331, in that one or more of Monsanto's claims arise under the laws of the United States, as well as 28 U.S.C. §1338, granting district courts original jurisdiction over any civil action regarding patents. Additionally, this Court has supplemental jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367 over all of Monsanto's non-federal question claims, such that they form part of the same case or controversy.

12. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant and Venue is proper in this judicial district because the parties in this action agreed to personal jurisdiction in the Eastern District of Missouri and have designated this judicial district as the exclusive forum and venue for all disputes arising under the licensing agreement executed by Defendant. A true and accurate copy of the licensing agreement executed by Defendant in 1999 is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

#### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

13. Roundup® is a non-selective herbicide manufactured by Monsanto, which causes severe injury or crop destruction to cotton varieties that are not Roundup Ready®. Cotton displays a unique and identifiable symptomatology after having been sprayed with Roundup® or other herbicide containing glyphosate, unless said cotton is Roundup Ready®.

14. Monsanto's Roundup Ready® technology is protected under the '605 patent and the '247 patent. Monsanto's Bollgard® technology is protected under the '605 patent. These patents were issued and assigned to Monsanto prior to the events giving rise to this action.

15. Monsanto licenses the use of Roundup Ready® and Bollgard® seed technology to farmers at the retail marketing level through a limited use license commonly referred to as a Technology Agreement.

16. Farmers are not authorized to use Monsanto's patented seed technologies unless they sign a Technology Agreement.

17. Among others things, the express terms of the limited use license prohibit licensees from saving harvested seed containing the Roundup Ready® or Bollgard® trait for planting purposes, or from selling, transferring or supplying saved Roundup Ready® or Bollgard® seed to others for planting. The use of the seed is limited to the production of a single commercial crop.

18. Authorized purchasers of Roundup Ready® or Bollgard® seed are required to pay an established royalty (sometimes referred to as a "technology fee") for each commercial unit of seed, in addition to the price of the base germplasm.

19. Monsanto places the required statutory notice that its Roundup Ready® and Bollgard® technology is patented on the labeling of all bags containing Roundup Ready® or Bollgard® seed. In particular, each bag of Roundup Ready® seed is marked with notice of at least U.S. Patent Nos. RE 39,247 and 5,352,605. And each bag of Bollgard® seed is marked with notice of at least U.S. Patent No. 5,352,605.

20. Monsanto does not authorize the planting of saved Roundup Ready® or Bollgard® cotton. The planting of saved Roundup Ready® or Bollgard® seed is a direct infringement of Monsanto's patent rights, including the '247 and '605 patents.

21. Defendant executed a licensing agreement in 1999. *See* Exhibit C.

22. In at least 2006 and 2010, the Defendant knowingly, intentionally, and willfully planted, sold, and used saved Roundup Ready® and/or Bollgard® seed without authorization from Monsanto, in violation of Monsanto's patent rights.

23. Defendant applied an “over the top” glyphosate-based herbicide to the fields he planted with saved cotton seed. These fields experienced no crop injury.

24. A sampling of Defendant’s fields confirmed that the Defendant’s acreage was planted with cotton seed containing the Roundup Ready® trait.

25. Defendant did not make sufficient authorized purchases of Roundup Ready® or Bollgard® seed for the acreage he planted with seed containing Monsanto’s patented crop traits.

26. Defendant harvested the cotton that survived the 2006 and 2010 growing seasons.

**COUNT I**  
**PATENT INFRINGEMENT-Patent No. 5,352,605**

27. Each and every allegation set forth in the above-numbered paragraphs is hereby incorporated by reference just as if it was explicitly set forth hereunder.

28. On October 4, 1994, the ‘605 Patent was duly and legally issued to Monsanto for an invention in Chimeric Genes for Transforming Plant Cells Using Viral Promoters.

29. Monsanto is the owner by assignment of all rights, title and interest in and to the ‘605 Patent.

30. Defendant infringed the ‘605 Patent by making, using, offering for sale and/or selling Roundup Ready® and/or Bollgard® cotton seed embodying or using the patented invention, without authorization from Monsanto, and will continue to do so unless enjoined by this court.

31. Defendant’s infringing activities were taken with full knowledge and with notice that the Defendant was in violation of Monsanto’s patent rights.

32. Defendant’s actions have damaged Monsanto and will continue to injure Monsanto, unless and until such infringement is enjoined by this Court.

33. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 283, Monsanto is entitled to injunctive relief in accordance with the principles of equity to prevent the infringement of rights secured by its patents.

34. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284, Monsanto is entitled to damages adequate to compensate for the infringement, although in no event less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest and costs to be taxed to the infringer. Further, on information and belief, damages should be trebled pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284 in light of the Defendant's knowing, willful, conscious, and deliberate infringement of the patent rights at issue.

35. The infringing activity of the Defendant brings this cause within the ambit of the exceptional case contemplated by 35 U.S.C. § 285, and thus Monsanto requests the award of reasonable attorneys fees and costs.

**COUNT II**  
**PATENT INFRINGEMENT-Patent No. RE 39,247 E**

36. Each and every allegation set forth in the above-numbered paragraphs is hereby incorporated by reference just as if it was explicitly set forth hereunder.

37. On August 22, 2006, United States Patent Number 5,633,435 was duly and legally reissued to Monsanto as U.S. Patent No. RE 39,247 E. U.S. Patent No. 5,633,435 was initially issued on May 27, 1997. The '247 patent is for an invention of Glyphosate-Tolerant 5-Enolpyruvylshikimate-3-Phosphate Synthases. This invention is in the fields of genetic engineering and plant biology.

38. Monsanto is the owner by assignment of all rights, title and interest in and to the '247 Patent.

39. Defendant infringed Monsanto's patent rights by making, using, offering for sale and/or selling Roundup Ready® cotton seed embodying or using the patented invention, without authorization from Monsanto, and will continue to do so unless enjoined by this court.

40. Defendant infringed Monsanto's patent rights by infringing claim 130 of the '247 patent through selectively controlling weeds in a field having been planted with crop seeds or

plants which are glyphosate tolerant and applying to the crop and weeds a sufficient amount of glyphosate herbicide to control the weeds without significantly affecting the crop.

41. Defendant's infringing activities were taken with full knowledge and with notice that the Defendant was in violation of Monsanto's patent rights.

42. Defendant's actions have damaged Monsanto and will continue to injure Monsanto, unless and until such infringement is enjoined by this Court.

43. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 283, Monsanto is entitled to injunctive relief in accordance with the principles of equity to prevent the infringement of rights secured by its patents.

44. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284, Monsanto is entitled to damages adequate to compensate for the infringement, although in no event less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest and costs to be taxed to the infringer. Further, on information and belief, damages should be trebled pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284 in light of the Defendant's knowing, willful, conscious, and deliberate infringement of the patent rights at issue.

45. The infringing activity of the Defendant brings this cause within the ambit of the exceptional case contemplated by 35 U.S.C. § 285, thus Monsanto requests the award of reasonable attorneys fees and costs.

### **COUNT III - BREACH OF CONTRACT**

46. Each and every allegation set out in the above-numbered paragraphs is hereby incorporated by reference just as if it was explicitly set forth hereunder.

47. In 1999, Defendant entered into the Monsanto Technology/Stewardship Agreement attached as Exhibit C.

48. The conduct of the Defendant, as set forth above, is a breach of this agreement, which, among other provisions, prohibits the saving, planting and/or transfer or sale of saved

Roundup Ready® or Bollgard® seed or use of any portion of seed grown from newly purchased Roundup Ready® or Bollgard® seed for anything other than marketing the crop derived therefrom into a terminal market as a commodity.

49. As a direct and proximate result of this breach, Monsanto has been damaged and is entitled to damages for breach of the licensing agreement, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees under the licensing agreement.

#### **COUNT IV - CONVERSION**

50. Each and every allegation set forth in the above-numbered paragraphs is hereby incorporated by reference just as if it were explicitly set forth hereunder.

51. By making, using, offering to sell and/or selling Roundup Ready® and/or Bollgard® cotton seed without authority, the Defendant intentionally and wrongfully exercised dominion, ownership and control over Roundup Ready® and/or Bollgard® technology which was the property of Monsanto under the terms of the '605 and '247 Patents and which is only legitimately available to third parties through a license agreement with Monsanto.

52. As a result, Monsanto is entitled, at a minimum, to damages equal to the value of the Roundup Ready® and/or Bollgard® seed at the time of the conversion; which is an amount equal to the applicable technology fee and the purchase price which the Defendant would otherwise have been required to pay.

53. Defendant's conversion of Monsanto's property rights was malicious and willful, entitling Monsanto to punitive damages.

#### **COUNT V - UNJUST ENRICHMENT**

54. Each and every allegation set forth in the above-numbered paragraphs is hereby incorporated by reference just as if it were explicitly set forth hereunder.

55. Defendant's conduct resulted in a benefit being conferred upon the Defendant and the Defendant appreciated the benefit, in that the Defendant illegally made, used, sold and/or offered to sell, or otherwise used transferred unlicensed Roundup Ready® and/or Bollgard® cotton seed, in at least 2006 and 2010, in contravention of Monsanto's patent rights and in violation of the license agreement system.

56. As a result, the Defendant has been unjustly enriched and obtained profits that in equity and good conscience belong to Monsanto.

57. Defendant accepted and retained these benefits under circumstances that render Defendant's retention of the benefits inequitable.

58. As a result, Monsanto is entitled to damages.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Monsanto prays that process and due form of law issue to the Defendant requiring him to appear and answer the allegations of this complaint, and that after due proceedings are had, there be judgment in favor of Plaintiffs and against the Defendant, providing the following remedies to Plaintiffs:

- A. Entry of judgment that the Defendant is infringing and has infringed the '605 and '247 Patents, and that such infringement has been willful and deliberate;
- B. Entry of judgment for damages, together with interest and costs, to compensate Monsanto for the Defendant's patent infringement;
- C. Find this case exceptional under 35 U.S.C. § 285, thereby trebling of damages awarded for the infringement of patents together with reasonable attorneys' fees;
- D. Entry of judgment for damages, together with interest, Monsanto's attorneys' fees and costs to compensate Monsanto for Defendant's breach of the licensing agreement;

- E. Entry of judgment for damages, together with interest and costs, to compensate Monsanto for the Defendant's conversion of Plaintiffs' property rights;
- F. Entry of an enhanced (treble) damages award against the Defendant for his willful and malicious conversion of Monsanto's property;
- G. Entry of judgment for damages, together with interest and costs to compensate Monsanto for Defendant's unjust enrichment and the profits obtained that in equity and good conscience belong to Monsanto;
- H. Entry of a permanent injunction against the Defendant to prevent him from making, using, saving, cleaning, planting, selling, offering to sell, or otherwise transferring, any of Monsanto's proprietary seed technologies, without express written permission from Monsanto;
- I. Entry of judgment for costs, expenses, and reasonable attorney's fees incurred by Monsanto; and
- J. Such other relief as the Court may deem appropriate.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**THOMPSON COBURN LLP**

By /s/ Daniel C. Cox

Daniel C. Cox, Mo. E.D. Bar #57781  
Jeffrey A. Masson, Mo. E.D. Bar #5239927  
One US Bank Plaza  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101  
314-552-6000  
FAX 314-552-7000

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs Monsanto Company and  
Monsanto Technology LLC*