

**104.** The method of claim **96**, wherein assaying the nucleic acid segments for the ability to suppress the target gene comprises expressing the segments as a dsRNA in a cell; allowing a pest comprising the target gene to feed on the plant cell; and determining the level of suppression of the target gene.

**105.** The method of claim **96**, wherein assaying the nucleic acid segments for the ability to suppress the target gene comprises calculating a Reynolds score for the nucleic acid segments.

**106.** The method of claim **96**, wherein assaying the nucleic acid segments for the ability to suppress the target gene comprises providing said segments as dsRNA molecules in the diet of an organism comprising the target gene and determining the level of suppression of the target gene.

**107.** The method of claim **106**, wherein determining the level of suppression of the target gene comprises observing morbidity, mortality, or stunting of said organism.

**108.** The method of claim **96**, wherein the crop pest is an insect.

**109.** The method of claim **108**, wherein the insect is selected from the group consisting of a Coleopteran, a Lepidopteran, a Hemipteran, and a Homopteran insect.

**110.** The method of claim **108**, wherein the crop pest is a *Diabrotica* spp.

**111.** The method of claim **96**, wherein target crop pest is a nematode.

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