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A simple method for generating loss-of-function plant mutants is described by Chuang and Meyerowitz in the April 25 [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#) (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 2000, **97**:4985-4990 [[Read the abstract on PubMed](#)]). Chuang and Meyerowitz use *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation of *Arabidopsis thaliana* to achieve RNA interference. Their sense/antisense construct produces a hairpin double-stranded RNA. This reproduces the loss of gene function that has been seen in [other organisms](#) after injection of double-stranded RNA. There is, however, some variability in the strength of the response depending on the identity of the target gene.

References

1. The Meyerowitz Lab homepage, [<http://broccoli.caltech.edu/~meyerowitz/html/.index.html>]
2. PNAS online journal, [<http://www.pnas.org/>]
3. Specific and heritable genetic interference by double-stranded RNA in *arabidopsis thaliana*.
4. Genetic requirements for inheritance of RNAi in *C. elegans*.