



## statistically SPEAKING

Because we're rarely far from a well-stocked supermarket or convenient drive-thru, many Americans aren't aware of the worrisome trend toward monoculture in our agricultural ecosystems. But the loss of diversity in the plants we eat should give us all food for thought.

### OUR FOOD SUPPLY BY THE NUMBERS:

Approximate number of plants that are edible:  
**30,000**

Of those, how many have people consumed  
throughout history:  
**10,000**

Of those, how many make up the basis of  
our diets today:  
**150**

Of those, how many provide 80 percent of  
the world's food:  
**12**

Of those, how many provide 60 percent of the  
world's food:  
**4\***

Percent of genetic diversity lost in agricultural  
crops over the last century:  
**75 percent**

*\*(Note: You get extra credit if you guessed which four  
crops these are: Wheat, rice, maize and potatoes.)*

Statistics courtesy of: Dean Bill Chameides' blog,  
*The Green Grok*, [thegreengrok.com](http://thegreengrok.com)