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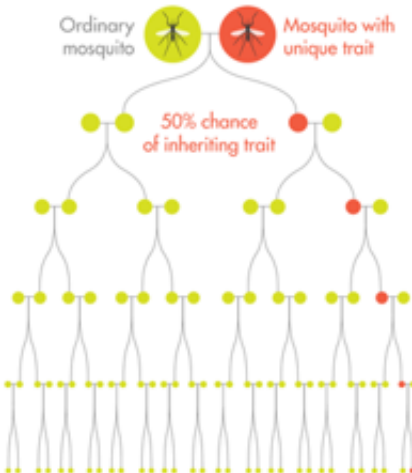
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# HOW GENE DRIVES WORK

Gene drives have the power to push a desired trait through an entire population of animals. The technology has most famously been touted as a way to spread a trait in mosquitoes that would stop their ability to transmit malaria. Only with the advent of CRISPR technology have engineered gene drives become more than a theoretical possibility.

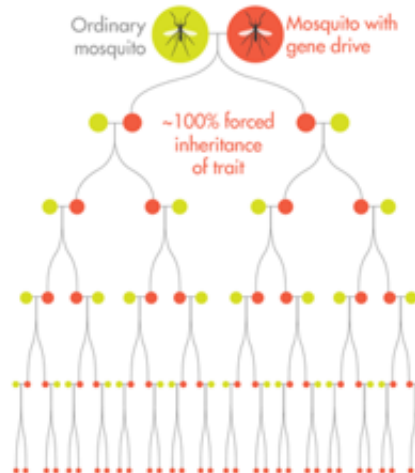
## Normal Sexual Reproduction

A specific trait ordinarily has a 50-50 chance of being passed along to the next generation. All other things being equal, an individual's unique trait won't spread widely.



## The Effect of a Gene Drive

An individual equipped with a gene drive will push its unique trait to nearly 100 percent of its offspring. The process will then repeat for all generations to come. Soon, all individuals will have the engineered gene.



## Engineering Gene Drives

CRISPR is a new genomic editing technology that can make cuts at a specific location on the genome. In an organism that inherits one drive-containing (red) and one wild-type chromosome, the CRISPR-equipped gene drive will cut the other chromosome.

When the cell attempts to repair the damage, it uses the drive-containing chromosome as a template.

The organism now has two copies of the trait. When it mates, it will always pass down a drive-containing chromosome to its offspring, where the process will repeat.



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