

MONSANTO CO /NEW/
Form 8-K
December 10, 2002

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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

**PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **December 10, 2002**

MONSANTO COMPANY

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Delaware

001-16167

43-1878297

(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation)

(Commission File Number)

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

**800 North Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63167**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)
Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(314) 694-1000**

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ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PRO FORMA FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND EXHIBITS.

(c) Exhibits

99.1 Slide presentation by the Chief Technology Officer of Monsanto Company, dated December 11, 2002

ITEM 9. REGULATION FD DISCLOSURE

On December 11, 2002, Monsanto Company's Chief Technology Officer, Robert T. Fraley, Ph.D., will participate in a conference call for clients of The Buckingham Research Group. This conference call will not be open to the public. A slide presentation to be used by Dr. Fraley during the conference call is attached to this report as Exhibit 99.1 and incorporated herein by reference. This slide presentation will be provided to clients of The Buckingham Research Group on December 10, 2002, in advance of the scheduled conference call.

We are furnishing the information contained in this report, including the attached slide presentation, pursuant to Regulation FD promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). This information is furnished pursuant to Item 9 of Form 8-K and shall not be deemed to be filed for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, unless we specifically incorporate it by reference in a document filed under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. By filing this report on Form 8-K and furnishing this information, we make no admission as to the materiality of any information in this report that is required to be disclosed solely by reason of Regulation FD or that the information includes material investor information that is not otherwise publicly available.

The information contained in this report, including the information contained in the attached slide presentation, is summary information that is intended to be considered in the context of our SEC filings and other public announcements that we may make, by press release or otherwise, from time to time. We disclaim any current intention to revise or update the information contained in this report, including the information contained in the attached slide presentation, although we may do so from time to time as our management believes is warranted. Any such updating may be made through the filing of other reports or documents with the SEC, through press releases or through other public disclosure.

Certain statements contained in this report, including the information contained in the attached slide presentation, such as statements concerning the company's anticipated financial results, current and future product performance, regulatory approvals, currency impact, business and financial plans and other non-historical facts are forward-looking statements. These statements are based on current expectations and currently available information. However, since these statements are based on factors that involve risks and uncertainties, the company's actual performance and results may differ materially from those described or implied by such forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, among others: fluctuations in exchange rates and other developments related to foreign currencies and economies; increased generic and branded competition for the company's Roundup herbicide; the success of the company's research and development activities and the speed with which regulatory authorizations and product launches may be achieved; domestic and foreign social, legal and political developments, especially those relating to agricultural products developed through biotechnology; the accuracy of the company's estimates and projections, for example, those with respect to product returns and grower use of our products and related distribution inventory levels; the company's ability to continue to manage its costs; the company's ability to successfully market new and existing products in new and existing domestic and international markets; the company's ability to obtain payment

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for the products that it sells; the company's ability to achieve and maintain protection for its intellectual property; the effects of the company's accounting policies and changes in generally accepted accounting principles; the company's exposure to lawsuits and other liabilities and contingencies, including those related to intellectual property, product liability, regulatory compliance (including seed quality), environmental contamination and antitrust; the effect of weather conditions and commodity markets on the agriculture business; the company's ability to fund its short-term financing needs; general economic and business conditions; any changes in business, political and economic conditions due to threat of future terrorist activity and related military action; and other risks and factors detailed in the company's filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Undue reliance should not be placed on these forward-looking statements, which are current only as of the date of this report. The company disclaims any current intention to revise or update any forward-looking statements or any of the factors that may affect actual results, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise

A copy of the attached slide presentation is available for viewing under the Investors page on our website located at <http://www.monsanto.com>, although we reserve the right to discontinue that availability at any time.

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Dated: December 10, 2002

MONSANTO COMPANY

By: /s/ Michael L. DeCamp

Name: Michael L. DeCamp
Assistant Secretary

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