An inducible genome editing system for plants

Xin Wang1,2, Lingling Ye1,2,4, Munan Lyu1.2.4, Robertas Ursache3,4, Ari Löytynoja¹ , Ari Pekka Mähönen1,2,*

ABSTRACT

 Conditional manipulation of gene expression is a key approach to investigating the primary function of a gene in a biological process. While conditional and cell-type specific overexpression systems exist for plants, there are currently no systems available to disable a gene completely and conditionally. Here, we present a novel tool with which target genes can be efficiently conditionally knocked out by genome editing at any developmental stage. Target genes can also be knocked-out in a cell-type specific manner. Our tool is easy to construct and will be particularly useful for studying genes which have null-alleles that are non-viable or show pleiotropic developmental defects.

MAIN TEXT

 Studies of gene function typically rely on phenotypic analysis of loss-of-function mutants. However, mutations may lead to gametophytic or embryonic lethality, or early developmental defects, impeding studies in postembryonic plants. The genome of the model species *Arabidopsis* contains a substantial number of such essential genes, though the precise number remains 30 unknown¹. Developing a tool that enables conditional and cell-type specific gene disruption is therefore of great value for comprehensively investigating gene function in specific developmental or physiological processes.

 Different strategies have been pursued for this purpose. One widely applied approach is the 34 inducible expression of silencing small $RNAs^{2,3}$. However, this results in only a partial reduction of transcript levels, which may hinder a full investigation of gene function. Furthermore, since small 36 RNAs can be mobile⁴, constraining the knockdown effect to a given cell-type is challenging. These 37 limitations can be overcome by using the Cre/lox based clonal deletion system⁵⁻⁷, or Zinc finger 38 nuclease⁸ (ZFN) and transcription activator-like effector nuclease⁹ (TALEN) based gene editing systems, which provide the possibility of a conditional generation of full knockout. However, these methods rely on complicated genetic engineering and have thus remained rather marginal techniques.

 The CRISPR-Cas9 system consists of components derived from the prokaryote adaptive immune system which have been modified for use as a genome editing toolkit in eukaryotes. The endonuclease activity of Cas9 produces double-strand breaks (DSB) in DNA when directed to a 45 target by a single guide RNA (sgRNA). The subsequent error-prone DSB repair mediated by non- homologous end joining facilitates knockout generation. Thus far, CRISPR-Cas9 has been used in 47 plants to generate stable knockouts¹⁰ and somatic knockouts at fixed developmental stages by 48 driving Cas9 expression with tissue-specific promoters¹¹. By integrating the well-established

49 CRISPR-Cas9 technology¹² with an XVE-based cell-type specific inducible system^{13,14}, we developed an Inducible Genome Editing (IGE) system in *Arabidopsis* which enables efficient generation of target gene knockouts in desired cell types and at desired times.

52 To achieve this, we first generated a fusion of a small nucleolar RNA promoter¹² and an sgRNA (*pAtU3/6-sgRNA*) in two sequential PCR amplification steps (Fig. 1a). The fusion was then cloned 54 into the *p2PR3-Bsa I-ccdB-Bsa I* entry vector $(3rd box)$ by Golden Gate cloning¹². This method allows simultaneous cloning of several *pAtU3/6-sgRNA* fragments, if needed. Next, we recombined 56 a plant-codon optimized $Cas9p^{12}$ into *pDONR 221z* (2nd box). Finally, the IGE binary vector was generated in a single MultiSite Gateway LR reaction by combining an estrogen-inducible promoter 58 (1st box), $Cas9p$ (2nd box), *pAtU3/6-sgRNA* (3rd box) and a plant-compatible destination vector^{13,15} (Fig. 1a). To facilitate screening of transformed seeds, we also generated two non-destructive fluorescent screening vectors (Extended Data Fig. 1). The availability of a large collection of cell-61 type specific or ubiquitous inducible promoters¹³ and of destination vectors with different selection 62 markers^{13,15} makes the IGE system quite versatile. In summary, an IGE construct can be generated in two cloning steps: first, generating a *pAtU3/6-sgRNA* entry vector by Golden Gate cloning and then performing an LR reaction.

Next, we tested the IGE system in the *Arabidopsis* root meristem (RM) by targeting well-

established regulatory genes that are essential for RM development. In the RM, a subset of

AP2/EREBP family transcription factors, including *PLETHORA1* (*PLT1*) and *PLT2*, form gradients

with maxima at the quiescent center (QC) to drive the transition from stem cells to differentiated

69 cells¹⁶⁻¹⁸. The double mutant *plt1,2* exhibits a fully differentiated RM 6-8 days after germination¹⁶,

70 which can be rescued by complementing it with $gPLT2-3xYFP^{18}$. The fused $3xYFP$ restricts the

71 mobility of PLT2¹⁸, making it possible to observe cell-specific effects of editing *PLT2* (Fig. 1c). We

designed four sgRNAs to target *PLT2* in the *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2*¹⁸ background (Supplementary

Fig. 1). *Cas9p* or nuclease-dead *Cas9p* (*dCas9p)* were transcribed under the inducible, broadly-

 specification and differentiation of the QC gradually led to a larger domain without YFP. These results are consistent with experiments in which laser ablation of the QC leads to re-specification of 101 a new QC from provascular cells¹⁹.

 We found that loss of YFP fluorescence correlates strongly with the expression level, the expression region and the timing of induction of Cas9p-tagRFP (Supplementary Fig. 3 and Extended Data Fig. 2). To demonstrate that the loss of YFP fluorescence was due to IGE-mediated *PLT2* editing, we first performed genotyping analysis with intact root samples. Using primers spanning all four targets, PCR detected a strong truncated band in pooled T1 transformants after Cas9p induction. The size of the band corresponds to fragment deletion between targets of sgRNA1 and sgRNA4, which was further confirmed by Sanger sequencing (Supplementary Fig. 4). Next, we isolated Cas9p-tagRFP and YFP-only cells by fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) to compare genome editing efficiency between these two cell populations. The same truncated band was more prevalent in RFP-positive cells than in YFP-only cells (Supplementary Fig. 5a and Extended Data Fig. 3a). Quantitative PCR analysis estimated that the large fragment deletion efficiency in RFP- positive cells is 59-73% (Extended Data Fig. 3b, 3c). In addition to the large deletions, we also identified small indels predominantly in Cas9p-tagRFP positive cells, especially at the target sites of 115 sgRNA1 and sgRNA4 through TIDE (Tracking of Indels by DEcomposition)²⁰ analysis (Supplementary Data 1). When driving sgRNA1 expression under different promoters, we found that *AtU3b* and *AtU6-29* were the most efficient promoters, at least in the *Arabidopsis* RM (Extended Data Fig. 4 and Supplementary Table 1), thus explaining why sgRNA1 (driven under *AtU3b*) and sgRNA4 (driven under *AtU6-29*) targets were most efficiently edited. Interestingly, already after 8h induction, before visible YFP signal decrease, Cas9p-RFP positive cells displayed 52-70% deletion efficiency, indicating that genome editing in vivo is a fast process (Supplementary Fig. 5b, Extended Data Fig. 2, 3c and Supplementary Data 1). We also constructed IGE-PLT2 lines with only single sgRNA. Both TIDE analysis and amplicon deep sequencing showed markedly

 To test whether the IGE system can edit other loci, we targeted a key gene encoding a cell cycle 129 regulator, *RETINOBLASTOMA-RELATED* (*RBR*)^{7,21}. The *RBR* null allele is gametophyte-lethal²¹. Previous conditional knockdown and clonal deletion experiments have shown that RBR has a role in restricting stem cell division in the RM^{6,7,22}. IGE-RBR constructs were transformed into a background in which *RBR-YFP* complements an *RBR* artificial microRNA line, *35S:amiGORBR* $(amiGORBR)^{22}$. After one day of induction, we observed loss of YFP specifically in the respective promoter domains (Fig. 2c). Three days of induction led to cell overproliferation in the QC, LRC 135 and endodermis, recapitulating the reported phenotype^{6,7,22} (Fig. 2d).

 When inducing Cas9p-tagRFP, we found that *ip35S* was not expressed ubiquitously but instead preferentially in the root cap and sometimes in the epidermis or stele (Fig. 2a and Supplementary Fig. 3). This pattern matches the domain of reduced RBR-YFP (Extended Data Fig. 5a, 5b) and PLT2-3xYFP expression (Fig. 1e and Supplementary Fig. 3) after a 1-day induction of non-tagged Cas9p. After long-term induction of *ip35S* or *ipWER*, PLT2-3xYFP expression decreased outside the promoter-active region, in contrast to the effect on RBR (Fig. 1e, Fig. 2b, 2d and Extended Data Fig. 5c). These results suggest that loss of *PLT2* in the epidermis and LRC leads to endogenous, non-cell-autonomous, negative feedback regulation of *PLT2* expression in the rest of the RM, leading to differentiation. In addition, our results confirm the reported cell-autonomous function of 145 RBR⁶.

 To further demonstrate the wide applicability of the IGE system, we selected *GNOM* (*GN*) as a target. *GNOM* encodes a brefeldin A (BFA) sensitive ARF guanine-nucleotide exchange factor 148 (ARF-GEF) that plays essential roles in endosomal structural integrity and trafficking²³. GNOM has

 been implicated in polar localization of auxin efflux carrier (PINs), but previous studies relied on 150 high-concentration BFA treatments or on hypomorphic alleles^{24,25} because the null allele displays 151 severe overall defects^{26,27}. To test the response of PIN1 to the loss of GNOM, we made a construct using the *ipWOL* promoter to target *GNOM* in the vasculature and transformed it into both *GN-*153 *GFP*²³ and *PIN1-GFP*²⁸ backgrounds. Following GN-GFP signal disappearance, most transformants displayed short roots, agravitropic growth and reduced lateral root formation 10 days after germination on induction plates (Extended Data Fig. 6, 7), a similar phenotype to the *gnom* 156 mutant²⁶. We then focused on PIN1 localization. Following 3 days of induction, PIN1 lost basal polarity and its expression was strongly inhibited (Extended Data Fig. 7), confirming the role of 158 GNOM in driving basal localization of $PIN1^{24,25}$.

 When inducing editing of *PLT2*, *RBR* or *GNOM* with *ip35S* or *ipWOL*, we observed cell death in the proximal stem cells of the RM, which have been shown to be sensitive to genotoxic stress²⁹ (Extended Data Fig. 8). Although it has been reported that *RBR* silencing causes DNA damage and 162 cell death³⁰, *PLT2* and *GNOM* have not been shown to regulate cell death before. It is thus likely that Cas9p-induced DSBs activate downstream DNA damage signals which trigger a cell death response in proximal stem cells.

Next, we tested whether a single YFP-targeting IGE construct can be used to edit several different

YFP-containing complementing lines. When targeting fused *YFP* in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2* and *RBR-*

YFP; *amiGORBR* backgrounds, we found a strong reduction in YFP followed by characteristic

developmental defects (Extended Data Fig. 9), similar to targeting *PLT2* and *RBR* directly (Fig. 2b,

- 2d). For example, in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2*, editing *YFP* in the QC caused QC differentiation,
- though at a lower frequency than when *PLT2* was targeted (Fig. 2b and Extended Data Fig. 9b).
- Likewise, we observed LRC overproliferation when targeting *YFP* in *RBR-YFP*; *amiGORBR*.
- However, unlike when *RBR* was targeted, the YFP signal also decreased in the rest of the RM by an
- unknown mechanism (Fig. 2d and Extended Data Fig. 9c). Many fluorescent-tagged lines

 complementing important genes are available, so targeting reporter-encoding genes might represent a broadly applicable approach for gene function studies. Furthermore, targeting exogenous reporter genes may have fewer off-target effects.

 precisely. Through spatiotemporal control of Cas9p expression, the system is well-suited to trace early molecular and cellular changes before visible phenotypes appear. Since the estrogen inducible

197 system has been applied in various organs and plant species^{14,34,35}, we expect the IGE system to be

 broadly applicable for plant molecular biology. By using different Cas9 variants, the system can be readily repurposed for base editing or transcriptional regulation.

METHODS

Cloning of IGE constructs

202 The sgRNA expression cassettes were obtained as previously described¹². Briefly, the first round of PCR amplified *AtU3/6* promoters from template vectors, *pYLsgRNA-AtU3b* (Addgene ID: 66198), *pYLsgRNA-AtU3d* (Addgene ID: 66200), *pYLsgRNA-AtU6-1* (Addgene ID: 66202) or *pYLsgRNA- AtU6-29* (Addgene ID: 66203), using a common forward primer, *U-F*, and reverse chimeric primer *U3/6 T#-* which contains an *AtU3/6-*specific sequence at the 3' end and a target sequence at the 5' end. All sgRNA scaffolds were amplified from *pYLsgRNA-AtU3b* with a common reverse primer, *gR-R*, and chimeric forward primer *gRT #+*, which includes the sgRNA specific sequence at the 3' end and the target sequence at the 5' end. Primers used in this study are listed in Supplementary Table 2. In the second round of PCR, purified first-round PCR products were used as templates for overlapping PCR with Bsa I-containing primers *Pps/Pgs* as primer pairs. In this study, four sgRNAs (sgRNA1-sgRNA4) transcribed under promoters *AtU3b*, *AtU3d*, *AtU6-1*, and *AtU6-29*, respectively, were used to target genes of interest. For each target gene, four relatively equally distributed target 214 sites were manually selected by following rules described previously¹². Different sgRNA expression cassettes were cloned into the *p2R3z-Bsa I-ccdB-Bsa I* entry vector by one-step Golden Gate cloning. Golden gate cloning was performed with 120ng *p2R3z-Bsa I-ccdB-Bsa I*, 90 ng purified PCR product of each sgRNA expression cassette, 1.5µl 10x fast digestion buffer of Bsa I, 1.5µl Bsa I enzyme (15U), 1.5µl 10mM ATP, 4µl T4 DNA ligase (20U), and H2O to make up 15µl. Before *E. coli* transformation, the reaction mixture was incubated on the thermocycler using the following 220 conditions: 37 °C for 5 min, 16 °C for 5 min, for 30-50 cycles, then 50 °C for 5 min and 80 °C for 5 221 min. Alternatively, the assembly reaction can be done by incubating the reaction mixture at 37° C for 4-6h.

The five inducible promoters (*p1R4-p35S:XVE*, *p1R4-pSCR:XVE*, *p1R4-pWER:XVE*, *p1R4-*

224 *pWOL:XVE*) were created earlier¹³. To construct the binary vector, a MultiSite Gateway LR reaction

225 was performed with the inducible promoters in the 1st box, *Cas9p*, *dCas9p*, *Cas9p-tagRFP* or

- 226 *amiPLT2* in the 2nd box, the sgRNA expression cassette or *nosT* terminator in the 3rd box and
- *pBm43GW* (PPT (phosphinotricin) selection) or *pFRm43GW* (seed coat RFP selection) as the
- destination vectors. The detailed cloning procedures of vectors *p221z-Cas9p-t35s* (Addgene ID:

118385), *p221z-Cas9p-tagRFP-t35s* (Addgene ID: 118386), *p221z-dCas9p-t35s* (Addgene ID:

118387), *p2R3z-Bsa I-ccdB-Bsa I* (Addgene ID: 118389), *p221z-AtMIR390a* (Addgene ID:

118388), *p2R3z*-*AtU3b-tRNA-ccdB-sgRNA* (Addgene ID: 118390) and non-destructive fluorescent

- screening vectors *pFRm43GW* (Addgene ID: 133748) and *pFG7m34GW* (Addgene ID: 133747) are
- described in the Supplementary Methods. All constructs generated in this study are listed in

Supplementary Table 3.

Transformation of the IGE constructs into *Arabidopsis*

236 PLT2-targeting constructs were transformed into the *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2* background¹⁸. For *RBR*-

targeting constructs, the transformed background was segregating *pRBR:RBR-YFP*(+,-);

238 35S:*amiGORBR*(+,+)²². The IGE construct targeting *GNOM* was transformed into both the *GN*-

239 *GFP*²³ and *PIN1-GFP*²⁸ backgrounds. With the exception of the construct transformed into the GN-

GFP background, in which the GFP signal was weak, all T1 lines were prescreened under a

fluorescence-binocular microscope to identify those with leaky inducible promoter or in which the

root tip had been damaged during selection. Only lines with YFP/GFP signal in root tip were used

for further experiments. The above-mentioned *PLT2* and *RBR*-based backgrounds were also used in

transformation of the *YFP*-targeting construct. The *RBR*-targeting construct *ip35S>>Cas9p-RBR*

was also transformed into the *Col-0* background. All experiments were conducted using T1 plants

unless stated otherwise.

Plant growth and chemical treatments

 All seeds were surface-sterilized with 20% chlorine for 1 min, followed by a 1 min incubation in 249 70% ethanol and two rinses in H₂O. The sterilized seeds were kept at 4° C for two days before 250 plating on half strength Murashige and Skoog growth medium $(\frac{1}{2}$ GM) plates with/without 251 selection antibiotics. The plates were vertically positioned in a growth chamber at $22 \degree C$ in long day conditions. PPT selection was conducted by growing sterilized seeds on ½ GM plates containing 20 μg/ml PPT for 4 days, then transferring them to PPT-free ½ GM plates for another 2 days before treatment. The transgenic seeds containing pFRm43GW were screened under a fluorescence binocular using DSRed filter (Extended Data Fig. 1b), and the sterilized seeds were directly grown on ½ GM plates for 6 days before treatment. 17-β-estradiol (17-β, Sigma) was dissolved in dimethyl 257 sulfoxide (DMSO, Sigma) to make 10 mM stock solution (stored at -20 $^{\circ}$ C) and a 5 μ M working concentration was used. Mock or 17-β treatment was performed by transferring seedlings on ½ GM plates containing equal volume of DMSO or 17-β. Alternatively, screened seeds were germinated on 260 DMSO or 17-β containing $\frac{1}{2}$ GM plates.

Microtome sectioning and histological staining

 Transverse plastic sections were cut from *ip35S>>Cas9p-RBR* (in *Col-0* background) roots which were geminated on estradiol plates for 20 days, as well as *Col-0* and *35S:amiGORBR* roots that were grown on ½ GM plates for 20 days. Sections from 5 mm below the root–hypocotyl junction point were used for analysis. Sections were stained in 0.05% (w/v) ruthenium red solution (Fluka Biochemika) for 5 seconds before microscopy analysis. For root samples from *ipWOX5>>Cas9p- tagRFP-PLT2*, *ipWOX5>>Cas9p-tagRFP-YFP* and *ipWOX5>>amiPLT2-1*, after 3 days of mock or 17-β treatment, a serial longitudinal section of 5 µm thickness was cut from the root tips. To observe the QC differentiation state, the longitudinal sections were stained in 1g/ml lugol solution (Sigma) for 12 seconds before observation under a microscope. The sectioning methodology has

271 been previously described .

Microscopy and image processing

 All of the cross sections and longitudinal sections were visualized using a Leica 2500 microscope. All fluorescent images were taken with a Leica TCS SP5 II Confocal microscope. Root samples used for cell death detection were stained in 10 μg/mL propidium iodide for 10 min then rinsed twice in water before imaging. For other samples used for fluorescence observation, a ClearSee 277 protocol³⁷ was used with slight modifications. Samples were first fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (dissolved in 1xPBS, PH 7.2) for at least one hour with vacuuming, then washed twice in 1x PBS and transferred to ClearSee solution. Samples were incubated in ClearSee solution for at least 24h. Before imaging, 0.1% calcofluor white dissolved in ClearSee was used for one hour with vacuuming to stain cell walls. This was followed by washing the samples in ClearSee solution for at least 30 min with shaking. During the washing, the ClearSee solution was changed every 15 min. Confocal settings were kept the same between mock and induction in each experiment. All confocal images were acquired in sequential scanning mode. Images were sometimes rotated using Photoshop and the resulting empty corners were filled with a black background. All images were cropped and organized in Microsoft PowerPoint. The brightness of the calcofluor signal was sometimes adjusted differently between the mock and induction for better cell wall visualization.

Protoplasting and FACS

T2 lines of *ipWER>>Cas9p-tagRFP-PLT2* in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2* (#1, #2, #5 and #8);

ipWOL>>*Cas9p-tagRFP-PLT2* in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2* (#1 and #2) with four sgRNAs; T1 lines of

ipWER>>Cas9p-tagRFP-PLT2-sgRNA1 in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2* and *ipWOL>>Cas9p-tagRFP-*

PLT2-sgRNA1 in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2* with only sgRNA1 were used for protoplast preparation. T2

293 seeds were planted on top of nylon mesh (100 μ m, NITEX), which was placed on surface of $\frac{1}{2}$ GM

- without adding PPT. After 6 days of germination, the induction was conducted by transferring mesh
- together with the seedlings to 17-β plates. For T1 lines, transgenic positive seedlings were first
- screened on PPT plates for 4 days, then transferred to ½ GM plates for another two days before 17-

 β induction. An equal amount of *Ws* (Wassilewskija ecotype) and *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2* seeds were also planted at the same time to facilitate gate determination in sorting.

299 The protoplast preparation was done as previously described³⁸. The protoplasting solution (pH 5.7) consists of 1.25% (w/v) cellulase-R10 (Yakult), 0.3% (w/v) macerozyme-R10 (Yakult), 0.4 M 301 mannitol, 20 mM MES, 20 mM KCl, 0.1% (w/v) BSA, and 10 mM CaCl₂. For each sample, more than 600 root tips were harvested and incubated in 10 mL protoplasting solution at room temperature for 90 min. A shaker (75 rpm) was used to facilitate protoplast disassociation. The resultant protoplast solution was filtered through a 70µm filter. The flow-through was transferred into a 15mL falcon tube and centrifuged at 400g for 6 min. The precipitated protoplasts were resuspended with protoplasting solution without cellulase and macerozyme before conducting a three-laser (blue 488 nm, red 633 nm, Near UV 375 nm) BD FACS AriaII cell sorting analysis. Widely apart fluorescence detectors (PE-Texas Red 616/23 for RFP and FITC 530/30 for YFP) were used to reduce fluorescence spillover effect and gates were determined against controls (Ws and *gPLT2-3xYFP; plt1,2*) to minimize the false positive events within respective population. Because of high background autofluorescence and the clear separation of the fluorescent-positive populations, the Cas9p-tagRFP positive and PLT2-3xYFP positive populations were sorted without fluorescence compensation.

Quantitative PCR

315 We isolated DNA from sorted protoplasts based on previously described method³⁹. Using genomic DNA as template, qPCR was performed on a Bio-Rad CFX384 cycler with EvaGreen qPCR mix (Solis Biodyne), by following the manufacturer's instructions. Pooled DNA isolated from *gPLT2- 3xYFP*; *plt1,2* background was used as control. To avoid the interference of native *PLT2*, the forward primer was designed on LR reaction residual region, attB1, a linker between the promoter *PLT2* and genomic *PLT2*. For each DNA sample, qPCR was performed three times with three

 technical repeats for each. The relative none-truncated DNA level of *PLT2-3xYFP* in each sample was normalized to the reference gene *UBO10*⁴⁰. The primers are listed in Supplementary Table 2.

PCR for TIDE analysis

 TIDE analysis uses Sanger sequencing data as an input to predict genome editing efficiency in DNA samples²⁰. For DNA samples containing four sgRNAs, two PCR amplification steps were 326 conducted to obtain corresponding fragment harboring each target site. In the $1st PCR step$, transgenic *PLT2* genomic fragment was amplified (26 cycles) by using a primer pair spanning four sgRNAs target sites. Then WT size band was gel purified and used as template in the $2nd$ PCR step. 329 In the $2nd PCR$, the DNA fragment around each sgRNA target site was amplified with 30 PCR 330 cycles. Corresponding fragments were amplified from plasmid *pPLT2-gPLT2-3xYFP*¹⁸ as control. The PCR product was purified from gel for Sanger sequencing. The mutation efficiency at each target site was estimated by TIDE analysis (https://tide.deskgen.com/). For DNA samples in which *PLT2* was targeted only by sgRNA1, the region including the target site was amplified in two PCR 334 amplification steps, as explained above. PCR products after $1st PCR$ step were compared to the 335 product after the $2nd$ step: both TIDE analysis and amplicon sequencing showed similar estimated editing efficiencies between the two products (Supplementary Data 2). This indicates that the second amplification step did not distort the results (i.e. estimated editing efficiencies). The primers used for PCR amplification and Sanger sequencing are listed in Supplementary Table 2.

Amplicon sequencing

 To confirm the TIDE analysis results, we selected four pooled DNA samples from sorted T1 lines of *ipWER>>Cas9p-tagRFP-PLT2-sgRNA1* and *ipWOL>>Cas9p-tagRFP-PLT2-sgRNA1* for amplicon sequencing (Supplementary Data 2). We first amplified (26 cycles) a 316bp-long fragment around the target site with the forward primer located at the attB1 region of the transgenic construct. Even 344 we performed PCR with 6x 50µL reaction volumes for each sample, the resulting yield was

 relatively low, from which we did nested PCR (30 cycles) and obtained a 266bp-long fragment with h igh vields. These $2nd$ round PCR products for each sample were used for amplicon sequencing. To evaluate the effect of our PCR amplification strategy on mutation efficiency estimation, we also selected two low yield $1st$ round PCR products for amplicon sequencing (Supplementary Data 2). DNA libraries of these six PCR products were constructed, and 150-bp paired-end reads were generated using an Illumina NovaSeq PE150 platform (Novogene, Tianjin, China). Between 6.87e6 and 9.47e6 reads were obtained for each of the six samples. First 100,000 reads from each sample 352 were aligned with bwa mem⁴¹ (v.0.7.15) to either 316 bp-long (26 PCR cycles) or 266 bp-long (30 PCR cycles) reference sequence using program's default settings. More than 99.77% of the reads mapped, giving ~93,000X and ~112,000X coverage for the longer and the shorter reference 355 sequence, respectively. Read were realigned around indels using GATK3 IndelRealigner⁴² (v.3.7.0) 356 and program's default settings. Variants were called with GATK4 Mutect 2^{43} (v.4.1.4) using the single-sample mode and unsetting the maximum number of reads (max-reads-per-alignment-start 358 (0). The variant calls were reformatted and allelic depths printed with BCFtools query⁴⁴ (v.1.9-87).

DATA AND MATERIALS AVAILABILITY

 Vectors created in this study have been deposited in Addgene for distribution. Addgene ID numbers are presented in Fig. 1, and Extended Data Fig. 1. All plant material, expression constructs and data supporting findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

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CONTRIBUTIONS

- X.W. and A.P.M. designed the experiments. X.W. conducted all experiments, except L.Y. carried out
- the analysis for Supplementary Table 1, and M.L. performed FACS. R.U. generated and tested the
- new destination vectors. A.L. determined the indel mutation efficiency of amplicon deep
- sequencing. X.W. and A.P.M. analyzed the results and wrote the manuscript, with input from all co-authors.

COMPETING INTERESTS STATEMENT

The authors declare no competing financial interests.

FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1: Engineering the IGE system for conditional genome editing.

a, Cloning steps for IGE construct generation. The sgRNA expression cassette (*pAtU3/6-sgRNA*)

was constructed in two PCR steps followed by Golden Gate cloning into the *p2R3z-Bsa I-ccdB-Bsa*

I entry vector. The final IGE construct was then recombined by a MultiSite Gateway LR reaction. **b**,

Schematics of two other entry vectors generated in this study. Entry vector *p221z-AtMIR390a*, in

- which *AtMIR390a* is split by a *Bsa I* flanking-*ccdB* cassette, was utilized for inducible gene
- knockdown. Entry vector *p2R3z-AtU3b-tRNA-ccdB-gRNA* was generated to exploit the endogenous
- tRNA processing system. Two annealing and overlapping target sequences with overhangs can be
- directly ligated into Bsa I-linearized *p2R3z-AtU3b-tRNA-ccdB-gRNA*. Red numbers in brackets are
- the Addgene numbers of vectors created in this study. **c**, The YFP signal in the RM of 7 day-old

 gPLT2-3xYFP; *plt1,2*. **d**, dCas9p does not decrease PLT2-3xYFP expression. **e**, Cas9p induction resulted in a gradual loss of YFP and eventually full differentiation of the RM. The numbers are the frequency of the observed phenotypes in independent T1 samples. Cell walls are visualized by calcofluor. Experiments were repeated three times in **c**-**e**. Scale bar, 50 μm.

Figure 2: The IGE system enables efficient cell-type-specific genome editing

 a, A one-day induction is sufficient to remove PLT2-3xYFP expression in a cell-type specific manner. In rare occasions, we observed overlapping Cas9p-tagRFP and PLT2-3xYFP expression (white arrowhead). **b**, PLT2 is cell-autonomously required for QC and stem cell maintenance. QC cells (red arrowheads) as well as endodermal and epidermal cells (white arrows) showed premature differentiation or cell expansion after 3 days of induction. QC differentiation is accompanied by shift of *ipWOX5* expression towards the provascular cells. Removal of PLT2 from the *ipWER* expression domain resulted in fewer LRC layers (white arrowhead) and ectopically decreased PLT2-3xYFP expression. Cas9p-tagRFP expression in the LRC and epidermis was frequently undetectable. **c**, A one-day induction is sufficient to induce efficient cell-type specific RBR editing. Without induction, the QC frequently shows cell divisions, probably due to the heterogeneity of the complementing RBR-YFP. **d**, RBR cell-autonomously prevents QC and stem cell division. The endodermis, QC and LRC exhibited overproliferation after 3 days of induction. White arrowheads indicate rotated cell division planes in the endodermis. Brackets in c and d indicate QC regions. Cell walls are highlighted by calcofluor. The numbers represent the frequency of the observed phenotypes in independent T1 samples. All experiments were repeated at least three times. Scale bars, 50 μm.

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Figure 1: Engineering the IGE system for conditional genome editing.

a, Cloning steps for IGE construct generation. Fusions of the sgRNA expression cassette (*pAtU3/6-sgRNA*) were constructed by two PCR steps and were subsequently cloned into the *p2R3z-Bsa I-ccdB-Bsa I* entry vector by Golden Gate cloning. The binary IGE construct was then recombined by a MultiSite Gateway LR reaction. **b**, Schematics of two other entry vectors generated in this study. Entry vector *p221z-AtMIR390a*, in which *AtMIR390a* is split by a *Bsa I-* flanking-*ccdB* cassette, was utilized for inducible gene knockdown. Entry vector *p2R3z-AtU3b-tRNA-ccdB-gRNA* was generated to exploit the endogenous tRNA processing system. Two annealed overlapping target sequences with overhangs can be directly ligated into *Bsa I*linearized *p2R3z-AtU3b-tRNA-ccdB-gRNA*. Red numbers in brackets are the Addgene numbers of vectors created in this study. **c**, The YFP signal in the RM of 7 day-old *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2*. **d**, dCas9p does not decrease PLT2-3xYFP expression. **e**, Cas9p induction resulted in a gradual loss of YFP and eventually full differentiation of the RM. The numbers are the frequency of the observed phenotypes in independent T1 samples. Cell walls are visualized by calcofluor. Experiments were repeated three times in **c**-**e**. Scale bar, 50 μm.

Figure 2: The IGE system enables efficient cell-type-specific genome editing

a, A one-day induction is sufficient to remove PLT2-3xYFP expression in a cell-type specific manner. In rare occasions, we observed overlapping Cas9p-tagRFP and PLT2-3xYFP expression (white arrowhead). **b**, PLT2 is cell-autonomously required for QC and stem cell maintenance. QC cells (red arrowheads) as well as endodermal and epidermal cells (white arrows) showed premature differentiation or cell expansion after 3 days of induction. QC differentiation is accompanied by shift of *ipWOX5* expression towards the provascular cells. Removal of PLT2 from the *ipWER* expression domain also resulted in fewer LRC layers (white arrowhead) and ectopically decreased the PLT2-3xYFP expression. Cas9p-tagRFP expression in the LRC and epidermis was frequently undetectable. **c**, A one-day induction is sufficient to induce efficient cell-type specific *RBR* editing. Without induction, the QC frequently shows cell divisions, probably due to the heterogeneity of the complementing RBR-YFP. **d**, RBR cellautonomously prevents QC and stem cell division. The endodermis, QC and LRC exhibited overproliferation after 3 days of induction. White arrowheads indicate rotated cell division planes in the endodermis. Brackets in **c** and **d** indicate QC regions. Cell walls are highlighted by calcofluor. The numbers represent the frequency of the observed phenotypes in independent T1 samples. All experiments were repeated at least three times. Scale bars, 50 μm.

Extended Data Figure 1 Non-destructive screening markers facilitate identification of transformed seeds.

(a) Non-destructive fluorescent screening destination vectors generated in this study. **(b)** Examples of transgenic seeds containing pFRm43GW screened under the fluorescencebinocular in the T1 (left) and T2 (right) generations. Experiments in **(b)** have been repeated more than three times.

ipWER>>Cas9p-tagRFP-PLT2 in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2,*

Extended Data Figure 2 IGE system enables real time observation of genome editing.

To monitor *PLT2* editing dynamics, a time-course 17-β induction was conducted to *ipWER>>Cas9ptagRFP-PLT2* in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2* (T2 generation, line #1). Cas9p-tagRFP fluorescence appeared after 4 hours of induction, followed by gradual reduction of PLT2-3xYFP expression (starting after 12 hours of induction). Cas9p-tagRFP expression and editing activity was gradually spread inwards, likely due to the radial diffusion of 17-β within *ipWER* domain. White dotted lines mark the RM outlines. Cell walls are visualized by calcofluor. Experiments were repeated three times. Numbers indicate the frequency of observed phenotype within given induction duration. Scale bar, 50 μm.

Extended Data Figure 3 Detection and quantification of *PLT2* **deletion from sorted cell populations**

(**a**) PCR-based detection of *PLT2* deletion in sorted cell populations. While several truncated bands were visible, the predominant truncated band corresponds to the large fragment deletion between target1 and target4 (see location of target sites in Supplementary Fig. 1). Experiments were repeated three times. (**b**) qPCR primer design strategy for *PLT2* deletion efficiency quantification. To avoid amplification of native *PLT2*, forward primer (F) was designed at attB1 site linking promoter and genomic *PLT2* and reverse primer (R) was designed at downstream of target1. (**c**) Quantification of *PLT2* deletion efficiency by qPCR with the pooled genome DNA from the sorted population (n>600) as template. Error bars represent s.d., and experiments were repeated three times with similar results. Individual values (black dots) and means (bars) are shown. Ctrl indicates the *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2*.

ip35S>>Cas9p-PLT2 **in** *gPLT2-3xYFP***;** *plt1,2* **1d 17-β**

Extended Data Figure 4 sgRNA promoter identity affects editing efficiency in *Arabidopsis* **roots.**

For each construct, the indicated sgRNA promoter was used to drive transcription of sgRNA1, while *ip35S* was used to guide *Cas9p* transcription. *AtU3b* and *AtU6-29* showed the highest editing efficiency in T1 seedlings after one-day of induction (1d 17-β). This may explain the preferred detection of deletion between target1 (*AtU3b*) and target4 (*AtU6-29*) when four sgRNAs were used in a single construct (Supplementary Fig. 4 and Extended Data Fig. 3a). Transcription of tRNA together with sgRNA1 under the *AtU3b* promoter also resulted in efficient *PLT2* editing. White dotted lines mark the region with reduced YFP signal. This corresponds to the region where ip35S is active (Fig. 2a and Supplementary Fig. 3). Cell walls are highlighted by calcofluor. Numbers indicate the frequency of similar results in the independent T1 samples analyzed. All experiments were repeated three times. Scale bar, 50 μm.

ip35S>>Cas9p-RBR in *RBR-YFP*; *amiGORBR*

Extended Data Figure 5 RBR functions cell-autonomously in the RM.

(a) A three-day mock treatment of *ip35S>>Cas9p-RBR* in *RBR-YFP; amiGORBR*. **(b)** A one-day induction caused a reduced RBR-YFP signal mainly in the root cap region without an obvious phenotype. **(c)** A three-day induction of *RBR* editing with *ip35S* typically led to LRC overproliferation (white arrows) without affecting the YFP signal in other domains. While half of the transformants showed sectors of variable size lacking RBR-YFP expression (left panel in **c**), the other half showed almost complete absence of RBR-YFP in the domain of *ip35S* (right panel). Cell walls are visualized by calcofluor. Numbers indicate the frequency of the observed phenotype in independent T1 samples. Experiments were repeated three times. Scale bar, 50 μm.

ipWOL>>Cas9p-tagRFP-GNOM in *PIN1-GFP*

Extended Data Figure 6 Post-embryonically inducing *GNOM* **editing recapitulates the phenotypes of the** *gnom* **mutant.**

(a) Plants with *ipWOL>>Cas9p-tagRFP-GNOM* in *PIN1-GFP* after ten days germination on mock or 17-β plates. Inducing *GNOM* editing led to shorter roots, agravitropic growth and decreased lateral root (LR) numbers. Adventitious roots from the hypocotyl were frequently found, however these roots were not counted in LR quantification. For each independent root, LR number and root length is plotted in **(b)**. Experiments were repeated three times. Scale bar, 1 cm.

Extended Data Figure 7 GNOM is required for PIN1 polarity and expression.

(a) *GNOM* expression disappeared from the vasculature after a 6-day induction of *ipWOL>>Cas9ptagRFP-GNOM* in *GN-GFP*. Due to the weak GFP signal, only roots showing a clear loss of GFP signal were included in quantification. **(b)** A three-day induction of *ipWOL>>Cas9p*-*tagRFP-GNOM* in *PIN1-GFP* resulted in loss of polarity and decreased expression of PIN1-GFP in the endodermis (en), pericycle (p) and stele (s) (white arrows). Right panels are magnified images of the regions marked with a red box in the left panels. Cell walls are marked by calcofluor. Numbers indicate the frequency of the observed phenotype in independent T1 samples analyzed. Experiments were repeated three times. Scale bar in right panels of **a**, 25 μm; others, 50 μm.

Extended Data Figure 8 Cas9p-mediated genome editing in proximal stem cells induces cell death.

(a) Stem cell death surrounding the QC was observed after one-day induction of *ip35S>>Cas9p-PLT2*. Based on cell types, the cell death response is classified into three categories: provascular cell death, LRC/epidermis initial cell death and columella initial cell death. Samples were counted twice if they had cell death in two different categories. **(b)** Cell death of provascular cells and early descendants was induced after one-day induction of *ipWOL>>Cas9p-tagRFP-PLT2/RBR/GNOM*. Cell walls are highlighted by propidium iodide (PI). Under PI detection settings, Cas9p-tagRFP is also visible. Numbers indicate the frequency of the observed phenotype in independent T1 samples analyzed. Experiments were repeated three times. Scale bars, 50 μm.

(a) Editing *YFP* instead of *PLT2* in the *ipWER* expression region caused changes similar to direct *PLT2* editing. The RM had fewer LRC layers (white arrowheads), as well as premature expansion of epidermal cells and a broad, faint YFP signal. The Cas9p-tagRFP signal is frequently invisible. **(b)** Editing *YFP* led to QC (black arrow) differentiation at a lower frequency. **(c)** Targeting the *YFP* of RBR-YFP in the LRC led to LRC overproliferation, similar to editing RBR. However, the YFP signal outside *ipWER* expression region was also hampered by an unknown mechanism, unlike when editing *RBR*. White arrows mark the neighboring cell walls in **a** and **c**. The same construct was used in **a** and **c**. Cell walls are highlighted by calcofluor. Numbers indicate the frequency of the observed phenotype in independent T1 samples analyzed. Experiments were repeated three times. Scale bars, 50 μm.

Extended Data Figure 10 Comparison of IGE system with inducible amiRNA.

(a) IGE-PLT2 displays more specific and stronger PLT2-3xYFP downregulation than amiPLT2. After a one-day induction, *ip35S>>amiPLT2-1* in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2* and *ipWOX5>>amiPLT2-1* in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2* showed a broader reduction of the YFP signal, particularly in the bracketed regions where no inducible promoter activity was found. Conversely, induced PLT2 editing caused very local loss of the YFP signal. After a three-day induction, the YFP signal is still visible in most of *ip35S>>amiPLT2-1* in *gPLT2- 3xYFP*; *plt1,2* transformants but not in *ip35S>>Cas9p-PLT2* in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2* transformants. There was no QC differentiation in *ipWOX5>>amiPLT2-1* in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2* roots. Ctrl refers to 7-day (top panel) or 9-day (bottom panel) old *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2*. White arrows mark the QC. (b) Comparison of the RM (top panel), root secondary growth (middle panel) and cotyledon epidermis (bottom panel) of Col-0, *35S:amiGORBR* and *ip35S>>Cas9p-RBR* in *Col-0*. Inducing RBR editing (germination on 17-β plates for 6 days (top panel), 20 days (middle panel) and 6 days (bottom panel)) resulted in more excessive cell divisions in the LRC than was seen in amiGORBR roots (top panel, germination and six days of growth on 17-β-free plates). Furthermore, RBR editing caused cell overproliferation in phloem (ph) cells and the periderm (pe) of root secondary tissues (middle panel) and pavement cells (pv) and guard cells (gd, blue arrows) of cotyledon epidermis (bottom panel), which was not observed in *amiGORBR* roots and cotyledons. The knockout (ko) sectors (green dotted line) were frequently accompanied by WT sectors (red dotted line), which can be regarded as an internal control. Red arrows mark guard cells divisions. Cell walls are marked by calcofluor. Numbers indicate the frequency of observed phenotype in independent samples analyzed. Experiments were repeated three times, except experiment on cotyledon epidermis phenotyping, which was repeated two times. Scale bars, 50 μm.

Supplementary Methods

To generate the *p221z-Cas9p-t35s* entry vector, first, *Cas9p* with two flanking nuclear localized signal (*NLS*) coding sequence and a *t35* terminator were amplified from vector *pYLCRISRPCas9P35S-B* ¹ with chimeric primers which contained the *attB1/attB2* adaptor at the 5' end and a 3' end complementary to *NLS* and *t35s*, respectively. The resultant PCR fragment was gel-purified and then recombined with *pDONR 221* following the instructions of the Gateway BP Clonase II Enzyme mix (Invitrogen).

Site-directed mutations were introduced to two nuclease domains of Cas9p, RuvC1 and HNH (D10A, H840A)², respectively, to generate dCas9. To achieve this, a partial *Cas9p* fragment (61-2582, starting from ATG) was amplified with primers containing the desired mutations. The purified PCR fragment was then used as a mega-primer to amplify *p221z-Cas9p-t35s*. The resulting PCR product was digested by methylation-specific endonuclease Dpn I to remove the parental DNA template before transformation into competent *E.coli* DH5α cells. The presence of mutations in *p221z-dCas9p-t35s* was verified by Sanger sequencing.

To insert the *tagRFP* sequence between *Cas9p* and the 3' end of the *NLS* encoding sequence located in *p221z-Cas9p-t35s*, *tagRFP* was first amplified from the entry vector *p2R3a-tagRFP-OcsT*³ with chimeric primers consisting of a 3' end of *tagRFP*-specific oligonucleotides and a 5' end of *Cas9p*/*NLS*-specific oligonucleotides complementary to the flanking sequence at the insertion point. The purified PCR fragment was then used as mega-primer in the subsequent Omega PCR step⁴, which used *p221z-Cas9p-t35s* as the template. The PCR product was treated with Dpn I before transformation into competent *E.coli* DH5α cells. The insertion of *tagRFP* was verified by both enzyme digestion and Sanger sequencing.

To facilitate ligation of the sgRNA expression cassette (*pAtU3/6-sgRNA*) into a Gateway entry vector, the negative selection marker, a *ccdB* expression cassette flanked by two *Bsa I* sites, was amplified from *pYLCRISPRCas9P35S-B* ¹ with primers containing *attB2/attB3* adaptors. After a BP reaction with *pDONR P2R-P3z*, the reaction mixture was transformed into the ccdB-tolerant *E.coli* strain DB3.1. Colony PCR was performed to screen for positive colonies which had been transformed with recombined plasmids but not the empty *pDONR-P2R-P3z*. The presence of the *p2R3z-Bsa I-ccdB-Bsa I* entry vector was then further confirmed by enzyme digestion and Sanger sequencing.

To generate the *p221z-AtMIR390a* entry vector (Fig. 1b), a BP reaction was performed with *pDONR 221* and *pMDC123SB-AtMIR390a-B*/*c* 5 (Addgene ID: 51775). *pMDC123SB-AtMIR390a-B*/*c* contains *AtMIR390a* 5' end and *AtMIR390a* 3' end which were split by *Bsa I*-flanking *ccdB* expression modules. After transforming DB3.1, positive colonies were screened by colony PCR followed by enzyme digestion and sequencing. Two artificial microRNA against *PLT2* (*amiPLT2*-*1* and *amiPLT2*-*2*) were designed using [http://p-sams.carringtonlab.org/.](http://p-sams.carringtonlab.org/) Annealed *amiPLT2* was ligated into *p221z-AtMIR390a* by a one-step reaction as previously described⁵.

Tandem arrayed tRNA-sgRNA units have been exploited for multiplex genome editing by using the endogenous tRNA processing machinery⁶, which precisely cuts tRNA precursors at both ends and releases free sgRNA after transcription. This strategy has been applied in a variety of plant species6,7. However, to date there are few reports of its application in *Arabidopsis*. We therefore investigated its feasibility in *Arabidopsis* genome editing and meanwhile tested its compatibility with our IGE system. To facilitate target sequence ligation, we first constructed a *p2R3z*-*AtU3btRNA-ccdB-sgRNA* entry vector (Fig. 1b). AtU3b, tRNA-1, tRNA-2 (tRNA was amplified in two separate fragments), the ccdB expression cassette (flanked by Bsa I), and the sgRNA scaffold were amplified with the indicated primer pairs. Both ends of each fragment contained primer-introduced sequences overlapping with the desired flanking fragments. In the overlapping PCR step, *attB2- AtU3b-F* and *attB3-sgRNA-R* were used as a primer pair to assemble these five purified PCR fragments, which were mixed as templates. Cloning this fused fragment into *pDONR P2R-P3z* was conducted as described above. To clone the first target sequence of *PLT2* into *p2R3z*-*AtU3b-tRNA-*

ccdB-sgRNA, two annealed primers with 4-nucleotide overhangs at the 5' ends and 20-nucleotide complementary target sequences were ligated into the entry vector in a one-step reaction as described previously⁵. In the *Arabidopsis* RM, we observed a decrease of the YFP signal in the region where the inducible promoter was active in most independent lines after a 1-day induction and finally a fully differentiated RM after a 10-day induction (Extended Data Fig. 4 and Supplementary Table 1), indicating that sgRNA against *PLT2* was disassociated from tRNA processing and guiding Cas9p to cleave *PLT2*. It has recently been reported that efficient genome editing could be achieved by fusing tRNA to a mutant sgRNA scaffold but not the wild type sgRNA scaffold in *Arabidopsis*⁸. However, in our hands wild type sgRNA scaffold and tRNA fusion worked well. We reasoned that the sgRNA promoter, Cas9 variant, sgRNA scaffold, target loci, and the tissue to be edited may all affect tRNA-sgRNA-mediated editing performance in *Arabidopsis*. Therefore a future comprehensive study of these variables may improve the utility of the tRNA processing system in *Arabidopsis*.

The red seed coat vector *pFRm43GW* was generated by modifying the *pHm43GW* destination vector⁹, which was obtained from VIB (https://gateway.psb.ugent.be/). The pHm43GW vector was digested with PaeI (SphI) (ThermoFisher Scientific) to remove the hygromycin cassette. Using an In-Fusion HD Cloning (TaKaRa) kit, two fragments were cloned into the digested vector. The first fragment contained a *ccdB* cassette and recombination sites for MultiSite Gateway cloning, and it was amplified from *pHm43GW* using

GAACCCTGTGGTTGGCATGCACATACAAATGGACGAACGGATAAA as a forward primer and ATACCTACATACACTTGAAGGGTACCCGGGGATCCTCTAGAGGG as a reverse primer. The second fragment contained the FastRed module, consisting of the *OLE1* promoter followed by *OLE1*‐*tagRFP*, which was amplified from *pFAST-R01*¹⁰ using CTTCAAGTGTATGTAGGTATAGTAACATG as a forward primer and

CGAATTGAATTATCAGCTTGCATGCAGGGTACCATCGTTCAAACATTTGGCAAT as a reverse primer.

We also provide another non-destructive fluorescent screening vector, the green seed coat vector pFG7m34GW. It was generated by cloning the FastGreen module into the pP7m34GW vector⁹, which was obtained from VIB [\(https://gateway.psb.ugent.be/\)](https://gateway.psb.ugent.be/). The *pP7m34GW* vector was digested with SacI (ThermoFisher Scientific). Three fragments were cloned into the digested *pP7m34GW*. The first fragment contained the *OLE1* promoter followed by the *OLE1* genomic sequence and was amplified from *pFRm43GW* using CCATATGGGAGAGCTCCTTCAAGTGTATGTAGGTATAGT as a forward primer and GCCCTTGCTCACCATAGTAGTGTGCTGGCCACCACGAG as a reverse primer; the second fragment contained the *EGFP* encoding sequence and was amplified from the *pBGWFS7* vector⁹ using ATGGTGAGCAAGGGCGAGGAGCTGT as a forward primer and ATCTATGTTACTAGATCACTTGTACAGCTCGTCCATGCC as a reverse primer; the third fragment contained the *nosT* terminator sequence and was amplified from the *p1R4-ML:XVE* vector³ using TCTAGTAACATAGATGACACCGCGCG as a forward primer and TTAACGCCGAATTGAATTCGAGCTCCATCGTTCAAACAT as a reverse primer. All three fragments were combined together with the digested vector using In-Fusion HD Cloning.

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Supplementary Figure 1 IGE construct targeting *PLT2***.**

(a) Tandem arrayed sgRNA expression cassettes. (**b)** The genomic structure of *PLT2*. Boxes indicate exons. Orange bars represent targets in *PLT2*.

For each construct, two independent transgenic T2 lines were randomly selected and analyzed. Representative images are shown. Note that the second *ipWOX5>>Cas9p-tagRFP-PLT2* line was leaky: roots displayed a similar phenotype with/without induction. Cell walls are marked by calcofluor. Numbers represent the frequency of the observed phenotype in analyzed T2 samples. All experiments were repeated three times. Scale bar, 50 μm.

Supplementary Figure 3 IGE-mediated genome editing correlates with Cas9 expression.

After one day of induction, IGE performance on *PLT2* editing under different inducible promoters was classified into two categories. In the mild category, Cas9p/Cas9p-tagRFP expression tends to be weak and narrow, resulting in narrow domains of moderately decreased YFP signal. In the strong category, Cas9p-tagRFP expression was strong and broad, with strongly and broadly reduced YFP fluorescence. In the uppermost panel, Cas9p was used without a tag. White dotted lines mark the RM outlines. Cell walls are visualized by calcofluor. Numbers indicate the frequency of similar results in the T1 samples analyzed. All experiments were repeated at least three times. Scale bars, 50 μm.

Supplementary Figure 4 PCR detection of IGE-mediated genome deletion.

(a) PCR detection of *PLT2* deletion in *ip35S>>Cas9p-PLT2* in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2* T1 seedlings after 3 days of treatment (in 6 day-old plants). Pooled DNA was isolated from 2cm root segments below the hypocotyl of 10 seedlings. Three primer pairs were used. There were no detectable truncated bands in 7-day old *gPLT2 3xYFP*; *plt1,2* (Ctrl), while weak truncated bands were detected in mock treated seedlings (white arrowhead), probably due to weak leakiness of *ip35S* in certain roots or cells. Note that although four sgRNAs were used to target *PLT2*, only one predominant truncated band was detected with each primer pair, corresponding to deletion between target1 and target4. Experiments were repeated three times. **(b)** Sequencing of truncated bands from primer pair F-R3 confirmed this deletion (letters in red represent protospacer adjacent motif, PAM). To determine the deletion types, the truncated band was not directly used for sequencing but cloned into *pDONR 221*. Two deletion types were found in 4 sequenced recombinant vectors. Black arrows represent relative positions of the forward and reverse primers.

FITC-A

aPLT2-3xYFP in plt1.2

Ungated 310000 events

ipWER>>Cas9p-tagRFP-PLT2 in gPLT2-3xYFP;plt1,2#1 24h induction Ungated
620000 events

Ws

Ungated 300000 events

 10^{3} FITC-A

24h induction

Ungated
300000 events

gPLT2-3xYFP in plt1,2

Ungated
300000 events

RFP

 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\overline{10}$ $n⁴$ \overline{a} FITC-A ipWER>>Cas9p-tagRFP-PLT2 in gPLT2-3xYFP;plt1.2#5 16h induction Ungated
300000 events

YFF

REI

FITC-A

 n^3

Supplementary Figure 5 Fluorescence-activated cell sorting of protoplasts obtained from IGE lines.

(**a**) FACS of protoplasts from T2 lines of *ipWER>>Cas9p-tagRFP-PLT2* in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2* and *ipWOL>>Cas9p-tagRFP-PLT2* in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2* after 24h induction. (**b**) FACS of protoplasts from time-course 17-β induced T2 lines of *ipWER>>Cas9p-tagRFP-PLT2* in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2*. Two independent transgenic lines of each construct were used for sorting. Each sample was sorted once.

ipWOL>>Cas9p-tagRFP-PLT2 in gPLT2-3xYFP;plt1,2#1 24h induction Ungated
300000 events

ipWOL>>Cas9p-tagRFP-PLT2 in gPLT2-3xYFP;plt1,2#2 24h induction Ungated
300000 events

ipWER>>Cas9p-tagRFP-PLT2 in gPLT2-3xYFP;plt1,2#2

Supplementary Figure 6 Fluorescence-activated cell sorting of protoplasts obtained from IGE transformants containing one sgRNA.

FACS of protoplasts obtained from primary transformants (T1 generation) of *ipWER>>Cas9ptagRFP-PLT2-sgRNA1* in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2* and *ipWOL>>Cas9p-tagRFP-PLT2-sgRNA1* in *gPLT2-3xYFP*; *plt1,2* after 24h induction. Sorting was performed once for each pooled T1 root material.

Supplementary Table 1 Quantification of fully differentiated root meristem (RM) after 10 days induction

Supplementary Table 2 Primer used in this study

Underlined sequences indicate Gateway adaptors. Sequence in red represent the target sequence in the gene.

Supplementary Table 3 Constructs generated in this study

