

Organic Plant Production

Summary from:

SRS Organic Standard

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Based on

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007, as amended
COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008, as amended

Specific principles applicable to plant production

In addition to the general principles for organic production, organic farming is based on the following specific principles:

- The maintenance and enhancement of soil life and natural soil fertility, soil stability and soil biodiversity preventing and combating soil compaction and soil erosion, and the nourishing of plants primarily through the soil ecosystem prior to use of external nutrient sources.
- The minimalization of the use of external inputs and non-renewable resources.
- The **recycling** of wastes and by-products of plant and animal origin as input in plant and livestock production.
- Taking account of the **local or regional ecological balance** when taking production decisions.
- The maintenance of **plant health by preventative measures**, such as the choice of appropriate species and varieties resistant to pests and diseases, appropriate crop rotations, mechanical and physical methods and the protection of natural enemies of pests.

Plant production rules

In addition to the general organic production rules the following rules apply to organic plant production:

General plant production rules

- Organic plant production shall use tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or increase soil organic matter, enhance soil stability and soil biodiversity, and prevent soil compaction and soil erosion.
- All plant production techniques used shall prevent or minimise any contribution to the contamination of the environment.
- The use of biodynamic preparations is allowed.
- Hydroponic production is prohibited.

Soil management and fertilization

- The fertility and biological activity of the soil shall be maintained and increased by multiannual crop rotation including legumes and other green manure crops, and by the application of livestock manure or organic material, both preferably composted, from organic production.
- Mineral nitrogen fertilisers shall not be used.
- Where the nutritional needs of plants cannot be met by the measures above, only fertilisers and soil conditioners authorized for use in organic production may be used and only to the necessary extent. Operators shall keep documentary evidence of the need to use the product.
- The total amount of livestock manure applied on the holding may not exceed 170 kg of nitrogen per year/hectare of agricultural area used. This limit only applies to the use of farmyard manure, dried farmyard manure and dehydrated poultry manure, composted animal excrements, including poultry manure, composted farmyard manure and liquid animal excrements.
- Appropriate preparations of micro-organisms may be used to improve the overall condition of the soil or the availability of nutrients in the soil or in the crops.
- For compost activation appropriate plant-based preparations or preparations of micro-organisms may be used.

Pest, disease and weed management

- The prevention of damage caused by pests, diseases and weeds shall rely primarily on the protection by natural enemies, the choice of species and varieties, crop rotation, cultivation techniques and thermal processes.

Where plants cannot be adequately protected from pests and diseases by preventive measures, only products referred to in Annex II may be used in organic production. Operators shall keep documentary evidence of the need to use the product.

- For products used in traps and dispensers, except pheromone dispensers, the traps and/or dispensers, shall prevent the substances from being released into the environment and prevent contact between the substances and the crops being cultivated. The traps shall be collected after use and disposed off safely.
- Products for cleaning and disinfection in plant production shall be used only if they have been authorised for use in organic production.

I.1 Annex II Plant protection products

1. Substances of plant or animal origin

Name	Description, compositional requirement, conditions for use
Azadirachtin extracted from <i>Azadirachta indica</i> (Neem tree)	
Basic substances	Only those basic substances within the meaning of Article 23(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council that are covered by the definition of 'foodstuff' in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council and have plant or animal origin. Substances not to be used as herbicides, but only for the control of pests and diseases.
Beeswax	Only as pruning agent/wound protectant.
Hydrolysed proteins excluding gelatine	
Laminarin	Kelp shall be either grown organically in or harvested in a sustainable way.
Pheromones	Only in traps and dispensers.
Plant oils	All uses authorised, except herbicide.
Pyrethrins extracted from <i>Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium</i>	
Pyrethroids (only deltamethrin or lambda-cyhalothrin)	Only in traps with specific attractants; only against <i>Bactrocera oleae</i> and <i>Ceratitis capitata</i> Wied.
Quassia extracted from <i>Quassia amara</i>	Only as insecticide, repellent.
Repellents by smell of animal or plant origin/sheep fat	Only on non-edible parts of the crop and where crop material is not ingested by sheep or goats.

2. Micro-organisms or substances produced by micro-organisms

Name	Description, compositional requirement, conditions for use
Micro-organisms	Not from GMO origin.

Spinosad	
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3. Substances other than those mentioned in Sections 1 and 2

Name	Description, compositional requirement, conditions or restrictions to use
Aluminium silicate (Kaolin)	
Calcium hydroxide	When used as fungicide, only in fruit trees, including nurseries, to control <i>Nectria galligena</i> .
Carbon dioxide	
Copper compounds in the form of: copper hydroxide, copper oxychloride, copper oxide, Bordeaux mixture, and tribasic copper sulphate	Up to 6 kg copper per ha per year. For perennial crops, by way of derogation from the first paragraph, SRS may provide that the 6 kg copper limit can be exceeded in a given year provided that the average quantity actually used over a 5-year period consisting of that year and of the 4 preceding years does not exceed 6 kg.
Ethylene	
Fatty acids	All uses authorised, except herbicide.
Ferric phosphate (iron (III) orthophosphate)	Preparations to be surface-spread between cultivated plants.
Kieselgur (diatomaceous earth)	
Lime sulphur (calcium polysulphide)	
Paraffin oil	
Potassium hydrogen carbonate (aka potassium bicarbonate)	
Quartz sand	
Sulphur	