

Crop Production Recommendations -- 1995

NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD FINAL RECOMMENDATION ADDENDUM NUMBER 3 STANDARDS FOR GREENHOUSES

Date adopted: April 25, 1995
Location: Orlando, Florida

The following additions are to be inserted in the Crops Production Standards section, page 21, line 788 of the NOSB Final Recommendations adopted June 1-4, 1994 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Specialized Standards for Greenhouses

Recommendation:

(1) Greenhouses shall comply with all provisions of the OFPA, including Farm Plan provisions, with the following exception: greenhouses operated as bench systems shall be allowed to plant crops after demonstrating to the satisfaction of an USDA-accredited certifying agent that no prohibited materials will compromise the organic integrity of the greenhouse production system. Greenhouses operated as in-ground or permanent soil systems shall comply with the standard three-year period without applications of prohibited substances.

(2) All greenhouses shall take adequate measures to prevent contamination by prohibited materials of certified organic crops or transplants.

(3) Use of potting soils containing prohibited materials is not allowed.

(4) Plants and soil shall not be in direct contact with wood treated with prohibited materials that is used for greenhouse structures or frames of raised beds.

(5) Both organic and non-organic production may co-exist in a greenhouse operation, if the following conditions are met:

(a) An impermeable wall shall separate organic and non-organic production sites.

(b) The ventilation system shall ensure that prohibited materials do not drift from non-organic to organic production sites.

(c) To ensure that prohibited substances applied during mixing of non-organic potting soils are not conveyed to organic soils, soil mixing machines shall be thoroughly cleaned prior to use for mixing organic potting soils.

(d) Adequate physical facilities, as determined by the inspector, shall separate organic and non-organic plants in storage or holding areas for shipping; adequate records shall also be maintained.

(e) Greenhouses shall be conspicuously labeled as in organic production.

Specialized Standards for Mushroom Production

Recommendation:

(1) House Mushrooms:

(a) Mushroom houses shall comply with all provisions of the OFPA: production in mushroom houses shall not be allowed until it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of an USDA-accredited certifying agent that no prohibited materials will compromise the organic integrity of the mushroom production system.

(b) Uncomposted substrate shall be organically produced.

(c) Culturing spawn on organic grain is not required, but prohibited materials shall not be applied during spawn production.

(d) Spawn is not required to be certified organically produced.

(e) Sanitizers and disinfectants not on the national list may not be applied to crops or growing substrates.

(f) Both organic and non-organic sites may co-exist in a mushroom house operation, if the following conditions are met:

(i) Organic and non-organic production sites are separated by permanent structures.

(ii) The ventilation system shall ensure that prohibited materials do not drift from non-organic to organic production sites.

(2) Log-Grown Mushrooms

(a) The operation shall be managed organically throughout the entire growing period of the fungus to be sold as certified.

(b) Log-grown mushroom producers shall comply with all provisions of the OFPA: production shall not be allowed until it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of an USDA-accredited certifying agent that no prohibited materials will compromise the organic integrity of the mushroom production system.

(c) Logs to be inoculated shall be organically produced or sourced from a site that has not been treated with prohibited materials for a minimum of three years. Logs and sawdust treated with prohibited materials, during the milling process and otherwise, shall not be utilized as production media. Sources of trees shall be documented.

Specialized Standards for Hydroponic Production in Soilless Media

Hydroponic production in soilless media to be labeled organically produced shall be allowed if all provisions of the OFPA have been met.