

Crop Production Recommendations -- 1995

NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD FINAL RECOMMENDATION ADDENDUM NUMBER 2 BANANA PLANTING STOCK

Date adopted: November 1, 1995
Location: Austin, Texas

The following additions to be inserted in the Crops Production Standards section, page 20, line 755 of the NOSB Final Recommendations adopted June 1-4, 1994 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

BANANAS

Commentary:

Banana trees were typically propagated in the field in seedbeds which produced three types of rhizomes: maidenheads, sword suckers, and sword suckers with attached mother rhizome and base of pseudostem. It is possible to produce 8-10 suckers per plant the first year under ideal conditions. The number of suckers diminishes in the following years. Sucker production must be limited or fruit production yields will lessen.

Plants are now produced in vitro for commercial use in the form of tissue cultures. Depending on the variety, bananas may set fruit anywhere from 9-18 months after planting. After producing fruit, the mother tree is destroyed and the suckers are either transplanted or their fruit is harvested. To the knowledge of the NOSB, organically produced banana rhizomes are not commercially available.

Recommendation:

Banana rhizomes utilized in a certified organic farming operation shall be organically produced with the following exception: If the producer can document to the satisfaction of a USDA accredited certifying agency that organic banana rhizomes are not commercially available, non-organic rhizomes and/or tissue cultures, including those treated post-harvest with prohibited substances, shall be allowed. If non-organic rhizomes are used, the producer must document in the Farm Plan efforts to obtain rhizomes that have not received post harvest treatment with prohibited materials. The producer must also demonstrate efforts to obtain organic rhizomes.