



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

STOP 0268 – Room 4008-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0200

February 6, 2004

David Hiltz, M. Sc.
Research Scientist
Acadian Seaplants Limited
30 Brown Avenue
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
B3B 1X8 CANADA

Dear Mr. Hiltz:

The National Organic Program has evaluated Acadian Seaplants Limited's petition to allow phosphoric acid to be used as a pH adjuster in aquatic plant extracts. We have determined that the substance, for the specific petitioned use, does not have to be petitioned because its use as a pH adjuster in aquatic plant extracts is currently not prohibited through the inclusion of "aquatic plant extracts" in section 205.601(j)(1) of the National Organic Standards.

Aquatic plant extracts are allowed for use as synthetic substances, in organic crop production. The only restrictions specified with the inclusion of aquatic plant extracts on the National List are that:

1. the extraction process is limited to the use of potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide, and
2. the solvent amount used is limited to the amount necessary for extraction.

No other restrictions are identified. Therefore, aquatic plant extracts, as long as manufactured consistent with the restrictions specified in section 205.601(j)(1), are allowed as synthetic substances for use in organic crop production, including the use of phosphoric acid to adjust the pH of the aquatic plant extracts.

If you should have further questions, please contact us at (202) 720-3252.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur L. Neal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "A".

Arthur L. Neal
Agricultural Marketing Specialist
National Organic Program