

From: Pooler, Bob  
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2002 8:00 AM  
To: Benham, Katherine  
Subject: FW: Sodium (Chilean) Nitrate

Katherine,

Comment for notebook, also, please forward this email to the entire NOSB.

Thanks,

Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: Fred Rappleye [mailto:FRappleye@grimmway.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 01, 2002 1:31 PM  
To: Pooler, Bob  
Subject: Sodium (Chilean) Nitrate

May 1, 2002

National Organic Standards Board  
Attn: Robert Pooler  
Agricultural Marketing Specialist  
USDA/AMS/TM/NOP  
Room 2510-S, Ag Stop 0268  
P.O. Box 96456  
Washington, D.C. 20090-6456

Re: Sodium (Chilean) Nitrate

Dear Robert:

My name is Fred Rappleye and I represent Grimmway Farms and Cal-Organic Vegetable Company in Bakersfield, Ca. Our companies have been farming organically since 1984 and are currently farming organic vegetables on over 18,000 acres. We'd like to ask for your assistance in supporting the use of Sodium (Chilean) Nitrate in organic farming.

Sodium (Chilean) Nitrate is a mined mineral from northern Chile that has proven to be of vital importance in organic farming. The quick nitrogen release provided by this product is crucial in the growing of short duration crops and crops grown during cold season harvest. This product accompanied by compost at preplant, along with other fertilizers (i.e. Processed Manures) is without a doubt absolutely necessary in the growing of organic vegetables. It also provides our products with the lasting capacity to whether long transportations to broader markets.

We feel the use of this product is important in continuing the organic movement and are planning on speaking with regards to it at the NOSB meeting in Austin, Texas.

Sincerely,

Fred Rappleye  
Organic Certifications Director  
(661) 858-1701 (Office)  
(661) 858-0636 (Fax)  
[frappleye@grimmway.com](mailto:frappleye@grimmway.com)