

**National Organic Standards Board
Crops Committee
2012 Sunset Proposed Recommendation
Magnesium Sulfate**

March 2, 2011

List: §205.601 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic crop production.

- (j) As plant or soil amendments.
 - (5) Magnesium sulfate—allowed with a documented soil deficiency.

Committee Summary

The Crops Committee requested and received a new Technical Report on this material. The CC did not find the TR to be sufficient and has sent it back with questions addressing the differences in natural and synthetic magnesium sulfate, availability of both, and both form's functionality as soil amendments and foliar sprays. The majority of the CC felt that having the synthetic form of magnesium sulfate on the National list was inconsistent with organic crop production. The minority voted to keep this material on the list pending further technical review because of its long use and historic acceptance for use in organic crop production.

Committee Recommendations

The Crops Committee recommends against the continued listing of Magnesium sulfate—allowed with a documented soil deficiency as a soil amendment. The motion was to continue the listing of Magnesium sulfate—allowed with a documented soil deficiency as a plant or soil amendment.

Committee Vote

Motion: To relist magnesium sulfate on § 205.601

Motion by: Tina Ellor

Second: Nick Maravell

Yes: 2

No: 3

Absent: 2

Abstain: 0

Recuse: 0