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

(b) As herbicides, weed barriers, as applicable
   (2) mulches
      (i) Newspaper or other recycled paper, without glossy or colored inks

Committee summary

Although there are many alternatives to the use of newspapers as mulch, they are relatively cheap, biodegradable, and effective and the known adverse effects are minimal. When the requested technical report is received, the Crops Committee may reconsider its decision.

Committee Recommendation

Relist newspaper or other recycled paper, without glossy or colored inks on § 205.601(b).

Committee Vote

Motion by: Barry Flamm  Second: Tina Ellor
Yes: 6  No: 0  Absent: 1  Abstain: 0  Recuse: 0

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

(b) As herbicides, weed barriers, as applicable
   (2) Mulches
      (ii) Plastic mulch and covers (petroleum based other than PVC)

Committee Summary

OFPA Section 6508 prohibits the “use plastics mulches, unless such mulches are removed at the end of each growing or harvest season ..” The Crops Committee requested a technical report for this use and thus new information might result in the revision of this recommendation. Biodegradable plastic is apparently available and might be an alternative for some applications. Because of the long use as a substitute for herbicides and other benefits to
growers and the belief that adverse effects are minimal, the CC believes continued use is acceptable.

Committee Recommendation

Relist plastic mulches and covers on § 205.601(b)(2)(ii).

Committee Vote

Motion by: Barry Flamm Second: John Foster
Yes: 6    No: 0    Absent: 1    Abstain: 0    Recuse: 0

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

(c) As compost feedstocks- newspapers or other recycled paper, without glossy or colored inks.

Committee Summary

The record lacks technical information on the listing and relisting of this use. CC has not received the requested TR and subsequent to reviewing it, may wish to revise this recommendation. It appears from committee discussion newspaper feedstock use is incidental mixture with other compostable material such as livestock bedding. The Crops Committee has no basis for not allowing the continued use at this time.

Committee Recommendation

Relist on § 205.601(c)

Committee Vote

Motion by: Barry Flamm Second: Tina Ellor
Yes: 6    No: 0    Absent: 1    Abstain: 0    Recuse: 0