

**National Organic Standards Board
Crops Committee
2012 Sunset Recommendation
Pheromones**

March 4, 2011

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

(f) As insect management. Pheromones.

Summary

Pheromones were approved for listing in 1995. In 2002, the board voted to allow List 3 inerts used in passive pheromone dispensers, through approval of the following annotation:

Pheromones -includes only EPA-exempt pheromone products, EPA-registered pheromone products with no additional synthetic toxicants unless listed in this section, and any inert ingredients used in such pheromone formulations that are not on EPA List 1 (Inerts of toxicological concern) or EPA List 2 (Potentially toxic inerts), *Provided* the pheromone products are limited to passive dispensers. Pheromone products containing only pheromones, active ingredients listed in this section, and List 4 inerts may be applied without restriction.

The Crops Committee requested, but did not receive, a Technical Review (TR) for pheromones at the time the committee formulated its recommendation. Although the committee is concerned about making a decision about a diverse class of materials without adequate technical information, especially knowing that there have been problems with pheromone product ingredients —such as those used for the light brown apple moth— the committee wants to preserve the use of these products, which have become essential to organic fruit growing. There was discomfort around the issue of List 3 inerts being allowed ingredients in a permitted substance, but the committee trusts that the Inerts task force will be able to update and clarify the limitation on inerts in National List substances, and the board will be able to address this issue when inerts come up for review. When the committee receives the requested TR, it may reconsider this decision.

The Crops Committee does think it is necessary to clarify that it is approving pheromone products that are in passive dispensers, that have no added toxicants, and that have inerts approved by this board. Passive dispensers are those which emit pheromones by volatilization rather than by spray and produce a concentration of pheromones in a limited area.

Committee Recommendation

The Crops Committee recommends the continued listing of pheromones for insect management with the addition of an annotation that limits their use to passive dispensers, without added toxicants, and with only approved inert ingredients. The motion was to amend

the current listing of pheromones to read: “(f) As insect management. Pheromones, provided that they are in passive dispensers, without added toxicants, and with only approved inert ingredients.”

Committee Vote

Motion: Barry Flamm, Second: Nick Maravell
Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2 Abstain: 0 Recuse: 0