United States Department of Agriculture

Organic Integrity Dashboard – 1/1/2021
A quarterly review of National Organic Program (NOP) enforcement activities

Many Hands Guard the Door Against Fraud

When tests by staff at the California State Organic Program and Washington State Department of Agriculture indicated a prohibited substance might be mixed in a specialty fertilizer listed on the organic system plans of some organic operations in their states, they quickly coordinated to check the findings and issue a Stop Use Notice. Both states conducted repeated testing to verify the findings, which led to a quarantine of the specialty fertilizer for violating state laws on the use of Diquat and Glyphosate. The USDA National Organic Program regulations also prohibit the use of both substances under 7 CFR §205.105. Neither may be used in organic production and handling.

The states coordinated with National Organic Program staff to ensure all accredited certifiers were given notice of the quarantines, so all organic system plans could be checked and operations notified. Certifiers are working with operations that may have been impacted to remove the adulterated fertilizer from the market and ensure the integrity of organic crops.