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Requirements for Seeds, Planting Stock and Seedlings Under the USDA regulations

National Organic Program regulations require that the producer use organically grown seeds, annual seedlings and plant stock, except that non-organically produced, untreated seeds and planting stock may be used when an equivalent organically produced variety is not commercially available.¹

SEED AND PLANTING STOCK

Your seed and planting stock must be organic, “unless commercially unavailable.” Planting stock includes: rhizomes, shoots, leaf or stem cuttings, roots or tubers. These are your onion sets, seed potatoes, sweet potato slips, garlic bulb and strawberry crowns. Asparagus crowns, raspberry canes and orchard trees are in this category as well.

- There is no allowance for seed treated with prohibited materials! Captan, Thimet, and similar chemical fungicides are NOT on the national list and are not permitted. PLEASE TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY. If your seed is covered in a pink or orange powder, it is probably prohibited! We may not be able to certify your crop if you use seed treated with prohibited materials.
- Seeds used for edible sprout production must be organic, no exceptions!

ANNUAL SEEDLINGS

ANNUAL SEEDLINGS MUST BE ORGANIC. There is no exception in the rule for commercial unavailability! A temporary variance may be granted by the USDA for natural disaster, research trials, etc. Don't confuse this with commercially unavailable!

Note: Onion plants are annual seedlings, not planting stock, so they must be certified organic.

PERENNIAL PLANTS

Perennial planting stock must be managed organically for at least 12 months prior to being sold, labeled, or represented as organic.

Note: ALL planting stock, whether it is an annual or perennial is subject to the commercial availability requirement.

¹ See National Organic Program Final Rule section §205.204

COMMERCIAL AVAILABILITY

The first step is to determine if an equivalent organically produced variety is available. By equivalent variety, look for comparable growing habits, days to maturity, insect and disease resistance, flavor and other important qualities. If a suitable equivalent variety is not available organically, note where you tried to look for organic seed, as that is important for your certification records.

Once you have found a source for a specific equivalent organic seed, the next step in determining commercial availability is to see if it is in:

- Appropriate form- such as sized, graded, pelleted, hot water treated, etc.
- Quality- you may want to try a small quantity the first year to make sure it does well under your particular conditions. If the only seed available organically is of inferior quality, then it may be acceptable to buy non-organic
- Quantity- example: if you want to plant 1 acre of pumpkins and the only organic seed available is in 1 oz. packets, then it may be acceptable to buy non-organic

Documentation and Good Faith Efforts

Prior approval by PCO for using non-organic seeds/ planting stock is not required. Compliance is reviewed in the context of the organic system plan, which is verified during the annual inspection. A pattern of inadequate documentation and lack of good faith effort to obtain organically grown seeds and planting stock may be considered non-compliance and result in PCO requiring prior approval regarding commercial availability issues in future planting cycles.

Documenting your good faith efforts to find suitable organic seeds / planting stock is crucial. We encourage growers to trial organic varieties to determine suitability in their system, if they are hesitant to rely on new varieties. As the demand for organic seed increases, over the years the supply will increase.

WHERE CAN I FIND ORGANIC SEED?

Don't forget to check ***Organic Matters*** and the attached ***Organic Seed Suppliers*** list for businesses offering organic seeds and supplies. Information regarding organic seed companies can also be found via the internet at:

- **www.attra.ncat.org**
Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA) has an online directory of organic seed suppliers that can be searched by state and seed category.
- **www.seedalliance.org**
The **Organic Seed Alliance** maintains a list of seed companies that sell certified organic seed.
- **www.theorganicpages.com**
The **Organic Trade Association (OTA)** website provides contact information for seed companies that sell organic seed.

ORGANIC SEED SUPPLIERS

(current as of 12/15/2011)

<p>ABUNDANT LIFE SEEDS P.O. Box 279 Cottage Grove, OR 97424 541-767-9606 www.abundantlifeseeds.com info@abundantlifeseeds.com <i>100% organic. All open pollinated. Vegetable, flower & herb seed, garlic & potatoes. OMRI Listed Soil amendments.</i></p>	<p>ALBERT LEA SEED 1414 W. Main P.O. Box 127 Albert Lea, MN 56007 800-352-5247 www.alseed.com seedhouse@alseed.com <i>Hybrid corn, soybeans, small grains, alfalfa, cover crops, clovers</i></p>	<p>BLUE RIVER HYBRIDS 27087 Timber Road Kelley, IA 50134 800-370-7979 www.blueriverorgseed.com maury@blueriverorgseed.com <i>Organic field corn, alfalfa, soybeans, red clover, sudangrass, sunflowers & grain sorghum.</i></p>	<p>BUTTERWORKS FARM 421 Trumpass Road Westfield, VT 05874 802-744-6023 www.butterworksfarm.com butterworksfarm@pshift.com <i>Organic grains: oats, barley, wheat, corn</i></p>
<p>CHAMPLAIN VALLEY MILLING P.O. Box 454 Westport, NY 12993 518-962-4711 <i>Organic grains: wheat, rye, spelt, barley, corn, buckwheat</i></p>	<p>THE COOK'S GARDEN P.O. Box C5030 Warminster, PA 18974 800-457-9703 www.cooksgarden.com cooksgarden@earthlink.net <i>Organic vegetables, beans, flowers, & herbs.</i></p>	<p>DLF ORGANIC 175 W. H Street P.O. Box 229 Halsey, OR 97348 800-445-2251 www.dlfororganic.com jeromem@dlfis.com <i>Organic forage and cover crop seeds.</i></p>	<p>DOEBLER'S PA HYBRIDS, INC 202 Tiadaghton Avenue Jersey Shore, PA 17740 800-853-2676 www.doeblers.com inform@doeblers.com <i>Organic hybrid seed corn.</i></p>
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL SEED PRODUCERS P.O. Box 947 Albany, OR 97321-0354 541-928-5868 www.espseeds.com esp@espseeds.com <i>Organic vegetables, herb & flowers.</i></p>	<p>FEDCO SEEDS PO Box 520 Waterville, ME 04903 207-873-7333 www.fedcoseeds.com <i>Organic vegetables, flowers & herbs.</i></p>	<p>FILAREE FARM 182 Conconully Hwy. Okanogan, WA 98840 509-422-6940 www.filareefarm.com info@filareefarm.com <i>Extensive collection of organic garlic varieties.</i></p>	<p>FRED C. GLOECKNER & CO. INC. 600 Mamaroneck Avenue Harrison, NY 10528-1631 800-345-3787 914-698-2857 (fax) www.fredgloeckner.com info@fredgloeckner.com <i>Organic vegetable, herb, & flower seeds.</i></p>
<p>GARDENS ALIVE! 500 Schenley Place Lawrenceburg, IN 47025 513-354-1482 www.gardensalive.com <i>Organic garden & sprout seeds, plus insect & disease control and soil care products.</i></p>	<p>GREAT HARVEST ORGANICS 6803 East 276th Street Atlanta, IN 46031 317-984-6685 or 866-834-7888 www.greatharvestorganics.com <i>Organic corn, wheat, soybeans & alfalfa.</i></p>	<p>HARRIS SEEDS 355 Paul Rd. PO Box 24966 Rochester, NY 14624-0966 800-544-7938 www.harrisseed.com growers@harrisseed.com <i>Organic vegetable & herb seed. Vegetable & herb plugs and transplants. OMRI listed growing supplies.</i></p>	<p>HIGH MOWING ORGANIC SEEDS 76 Quarry Road Wolcott, VT 05680 802-472-6174 www.highmowingseeds.com questions@highmowingseeds.com <i>We offer high quality organic seed for over 500 varieties of heirloom, open-pollinated and hybrid vegetables, flowers, herbs, potatoes, garlic, and cover crops.</i></p>
<p>HOMESTEAD NUTRITION, INC. 245 White Oak Road New Holland, PA 17557 717-354-4398 or 888-336-7878 www.homesteadnutritioninc.com donw@homesteadnutritioninc.com <i>Organic crop seed.</i></p>	<p>JOHNNY'S SELECTED SEEDS 955 Benton Avenue Winslow, ME 04901 877-JOHNYS (877-564-6697) www.johnnyseed.com service@johnnyseeds.com <i>Organic vegetables, flowers & herbs.</i></p>	<p>KING'S AGRISEED, INC. 60 N Ronks Rd, Suite K Ronks, PA 17572 717-687-6224 www.kingsagriseeds.com info@kingsagriseeds.com <i>Organic crop and forage seed.</i></p>	<p>LAKEVIEW ORGANIC GRAIN PO Box 361 Penn Yan, NY 14527 315-531-1038 www.lakevieworganicgrain.com kandmhfarm@sprintmail.com <i>Organic field crop, cover crop & pasture seed.</i></p>

<p>LANCASTER AG PRODUCTS 60 North Ronks Road Ronks, PA 17572 717-687-9222 www.lancasterag.com seeds@lancasterag.com <i>Organic corn, alfalfa, wheat, rye, grasses, soybeans, barley, pasture mixes.</i></p>	<p>THE MAINE POTATO LADY PO Box 65 Guilford, ME 04443 207-343-2270 www.maineopotatolady.com info@mainepotatolady.com <i>Organic seed potatoes, shallots, onion sets, garlic, & cover crops, plus fertilizer, soil & seed inoculant.</i></p>	<p>MASTERS CHOICE 3010 St. Rt. 146 E Anna, IL 62906 866-444-1044 618-833-2210 (fax) www.seedcorn.com info@seedcorn.com <i>Organic Seed Corn.</i></p>	<p>ROHRER SEEDS PO Box 250 Smoketown, PA 17576 717-299-2571 www.rohrerseeds.com info@rohrerseeds.com <i>Organic vegetable seeds.</i></p>
<p>SEEDS OF CHANGE 2055 Dominguez Hills Drive Rancho Dominguez, CA 90220 888-762-7333 www.seedsofchange.com seedsofchange@marketingconcepts.com <i>Organic flowers, herbs, vegetables & cover crops.</i></p>	<p>SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE 3094 North Winn Road Decorah, IA 52101 563-382-5990 www.seedsaVERS.org customerservice@seedssavers.com <i>Some organic vegetables, garlic, herbs, potatoes & heirloom varieties.</i></p>	<p>SEEDWAY, LLC 99 Industrial Road Elizabethtown, PA 17022 800-952-7333 717-367-1075 www.seedway.com vegseed@seedway.com <i>Some organic vegetables & herbs.</i> Certified by PCO</p>	<p>SNOW SEED ORGANIC 21855 Rosehart Way Salinas, CA 93908 831-758-9869 www.snowseedco.com tbrinan@snowseedco.com <i>Full line of organic vegetables.</i></p>
<p>SOUTHERN EXPOSURE SEED EXCHANGE PO Box 460 Mineral VA 23117 540-894-9480 www.southernexposure.com gardens@southernexposure.com <i>400+ varieties of Certified organic heirloom & open pollinated vegetable, herb and flower seeds as well as garlic and perennial onion bulbs.</i></p>	<p>TERRITORIAL SEED COMPANY P.O. Box 158 Cottage Grove, OR 97424 800-626-0866 www.territorialseed.com info@territorialseed.com <i>Organic flowers, herbs, vegetables, garlic, & cover crop seeds, plus OMRI listed fertilizers & soil amendments.</i></p>	<p>VITALIS ORGANIC SEEDS 7 Harris Place Salinas, CA 93901 831-262-7635 www.vitalisorganic.com rick.anderson@enzausa.com <i>Organic vegetable and herb seeds, with emphasis on lettuce, spinach, tomato, pepper, cucumber, squash, and melons.</i></p>	<p>W. ATLEE BURPEE & CO. 300 Park Avenue Warminster, PA 18974 1800-888-1447 www.burpee.com/organic-gardening/ <i>Organic vegetable seeds.</i></p>
<p>WELTER SEED & HONEY COMPANY 17724 Hwy. 136 Onslow, IA 52321 800-728-8450 or 800-470-3325 www.welterseed.com info@welterseed.com <i>Organic grain, forage and cover crops.</i></p>	<p>WOOD PRAIRIE FARM 49 Kinney Road Bridgewater, ME 04735 800-829-9765 www.woodprairie.com orders@woodprairie.com <i>Organic garden seed, seed potatoes, and cover crop seed. Approved fertilizers.</i></p>		

ORGANIC TRANSPLANT SUPPLIERS

<p>COMMON GROUND FARM 176 Zuck Road Spring Mills, PA 16875 814-364-9171 info@commongroundfarm.com <i>Organic vegetable seedlings, specializing in heirloom tomatoes.</i></p>	<p>MOORHILL FARM & GREENHOUSES Moor Hill Road RR 1, Box 5510 Mt. Vernon, ME 04352 207-293-2268 <i>Organic seedlings, herbs & vegetables, including onions and garlic.</i></p>	<p>MOUNTAIN VALLEY GROWERS 38325 Pepperweed Road Squaw Valley, CA 93675 599-338-2775 559-338-0075 (fax) www.mountainvalleygrowers.com customerservice@mountainvalleygrowers.com <i>Organic veggies, perennial & herb plants, including strawberries.</i></p>	<p>PATCHWORK FARM 476 Jackson Hill Rd. Aaronsburg, PA 16820 814-349-8275 casefarm@hotmail.com <i>Organic vegetable seedlings.</i></p>
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