



Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) Protection Guidelines

OCIA certified producers are required to take every precaution to ensure that genetically modified materials do not contaminate their organic crops. Due to the increased use and availability of GMO's, and the lack of strong labeling requirements for such products, organic farmers must be aware of products which may be genetically modified and how to reduce potential contamination of organic crops.

Please ensure all inputs purchased are not derived from genetic modification techniques, and maintain documentation that verifies this. This includes seed, inoculants, and any purchased inputs. If you raise livestock, ensure all feeds, supplements, and vaccines are not derived from genetic modification, and maintain documentation that verifies this.

The *Non-GMO Affidavit* can be used to verify the non-GMO status of all seed planted on OCIA certified farms. This affidavit is the preferred method to verify non-GMO status of seed planted. If this form is not completed, documentation from the seed source (dealer or seed breeding/development company) must be maintained in the audit trail. The affidavit **MUST** be used for all seed purchased after May 15, 2001 including all future certification years. If a producer uses seed saved from their own crops, audit trail documentation must be maintained which verifies the source of the seed (field grown on), and the storage of the seed, to ensure maintenance of organic integrity.

GMO contamination from pollen drift, especially in open-pollinated crops, is a very real concern for organic farmers. You may wish to contact neighboring conventional farmers to ask if they will be planting genetically modified crops in fields that adjoin your organic fields. If neighbors plant genetically modified crops in adjoining fields, you may wish to adjust your rotation to plant a different crop family in the organic field, or delay planting so that the crops will not pollinate at the same time.

If any harvest equipment is used on genetically modified crops, organic farmers must be diligent in the cleaning of equipment prior to use on organic crops. Cleaning should include opening all doors and traps and thoroughly vacuuming or blowing with forced air all areas of the equipment. Merely wiping down equipment will not adequately clean the equipment. After the equipment is cleaned, it should be purged with organic product (not buffer crops). Any purged crop should be disposed of as conventional. If used for feed for conventional livestock, etc., it must be documented in the audit trail.

If you have grown genetically modified crops prior to converting to organic production, and have stored these crops on your farm, ensure all storage areas are well cleaned, and any seed or seed residue is removed from the storage unit prior to storing organic crop.