

Finding Allowed Inputs for your Organic Operation

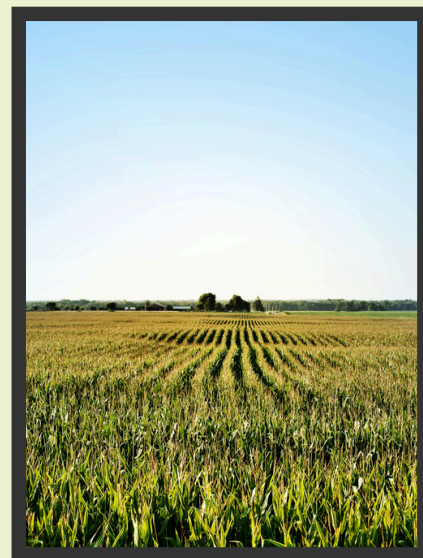
Finding the right input for your operation can be challenging. Where do you find inputs allowed for organics, and how do you make sure your organic certifier has approved them for your operation?

First, a disclaimer: Before using a new input on your operation, whether it is a pesticide, fertilizer, supplement, or ingredient, it is essential to add the input to your Organic System Plan and ensure your organic certification agency reviews it.

Why? If you use an input that is later found to be prohibited under the USDA Organic Regulations, there may be significant consequences. For example, you may need to re-transition the land, the livestock may no longer be considered “organic,” or the product produced may not be sold as “organic.” This document is to assist you in your search for inputs, but the organic certifier determines whether an input is approved for your operation.



It is highly recommended that your certifier review the input **prior to purchase** to avoid costly mistakes. Resources below can help you find inputs even if you don't have a certifier yet.



What resources are available to find allowed inputs?

There are several organizations that review materials and publish lists of allowed inputs:

1. **Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI):** OMRI's website includes a detailed input search for crops, livestock, and handling. OMRI reviews materials for other organic programs, so it's important to confirm the listing is specific to the USDA Organic Regulations (**Tip:** Look for the US Flag and “Ruling Body: NOP” designation on input listings).
2. **Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA):** WSDA publishes a list of reviewed materials for crops, livestock, and handling.
3. **California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Organic Input Material Program:** CDFA's database includes fertilizers for crops.



Additionally, neighbors who are certified organic may suggest inputs, a crop advisor may recommend products, or an input manufacturer may tell you their product is allowed for organic operations. However, if the recommended input is not listed in any of the sources above, it is especially important to ensure an organic certifier reviews it prior to purchase and use. Friends and neighbors may mean well, but your organic certification could be at risk if the input isn't allowed or you don't meet noted restrictions.

Next, what do you do once you find an input you would like to use?

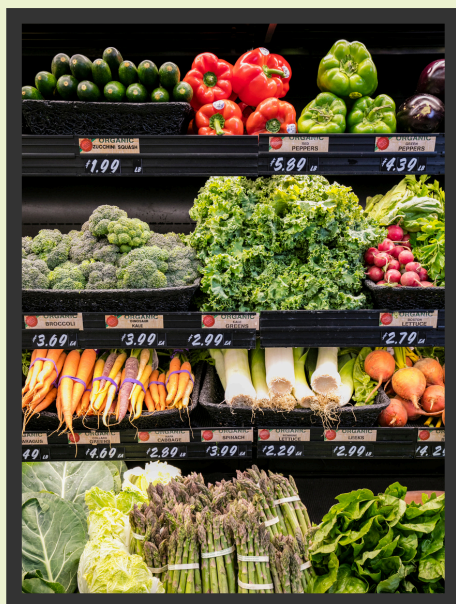


**TRANSITION TO ORGANIC
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

For more resources:

<https://www.organictransition.org/>

Submitting the input to your organic certification agency:



1. **First, do you meet restrictions indicated by OMRI, WSDA, or CDFA for the input?** If not, you probably cannot use the input. If the input isn't listed with those organizations, refer to the National List (§ 205.601 through § 205.606) of the USDA Organic Regulations.
2. **Update your Organic System Plan (OSP)** with the input and **submit the revised OSP with the input documentation you have** (e.g., OMRI certificate, label, Technical Data Sheet, Safety Data Sheets, ingredient list, etc.) to your organic certifier. They will review the input in the context of your OSP (including why or how you plan to use it) and notify you of their decision. If they determine it is allowed, you can purchase and use the input.
3. What do you do if you are in transition and don't have an organic certifier? It is recommended to stick with materials listed at the resources above, maintain copies of any documents to show the material is allowed (e.g., OMRI certificate, copy of webpage, etc.) and that you confirm you meet any restrictions indicated.

What's next?

Keep copies of all documentation received for the input (e.g., invoices, labels), as records must be maintained by organic operations and will be verified by the certifier and inspector.

Resources

Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI): www.omri.org

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA):

<https://agr.wa.gov/departments/organic/input-material-registration>

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Organic Input Material Program:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/fertilizer_OIM.html

NOP Handbook:

- [NOP-5034: Materials for Organic Crop Production](#)
- [NOP-5034-1: Materials for Organic Crop Production](#)
- [Appendix of Prohibited Materials for Organic Crop Production](#)

USDA Organic Regulations

National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances



For more resources:

<https://www.organictransition.org/>

