USDA’s national organic regulations list inputs that are allowed in organic crop production. With some exceptions, all natural (non-synthetic) inputs are allowed and synthetic products are prohibited. This fact sheet outlines how to determine if an input material meets the USDA organic regulations and would be allowed for use on an organic farm.

To be sold or labeled as organic, products must be produced and handled without the use of synthetic products, excluded methods, such as GMO technology, ionizing radiation, and sewage sludge. The National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances outlines criteria and exceptions to this rule. **7CFR §205.105**

### Recognized input lists
- WSDA Organic Input List [https://agr.wa.gov/departments/organic/input-material-registration](https://agr.wa.gov/departments/organic/input-material-registration)
- California Dept. of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Organic Input Material Program [https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/fertilizer_OIM.html](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/fertilizer_OIM.html)

### Helpful Tips
- Input labels may use “organic” to refer to the product chemistry (containing carbon compounds) rather than its approval for use in organic agriculture. Look for the WSDA Approved for use in Organic Production seal or the OMRI logo on product labels.
- Consider how the input is being used. Products may be approved for a specific use and prohibited under other circumstances.
- Check names carefully. A one letter difference in a brand name may distinguish a compliant product from a noncompliant version.
- Input materials may not disclose all the inactive ingredients on a label. 100% of the ingredients must be evaluated for compliance. If you cannot determine all the ingredients, don’t use the input on your organic or transitional site.

### Definitions

**Non-synthetic (natural):** A substance derived from a mineral, plant, or animal matter and does not undergo a synthetic process.

**Synthetic:** A substance formulated or manufactured by a chemical process or by a process that chemically changes a substance extracted from naturally occurring plant, animal, or mineral sources. It does not apply to substances created by naturally occurring biological processes.
Input Material Decision Tree

Is the brand name product registered as an approved input by WSDA Organic Program?

- Yes. Allowed. Update your input list with WSDA prior to use.
- No. Registered by another recognized organization?

- Yes. Synthetic or natural?
- No. Single ingredient?

- Synthetic. Listed in §205.601 as allowed?
- No. Prohibited.

- Natural. Listed in §205.602 as prohibited?
- No. Prohibited.

- Yes. Any synthetic ingredients not listed as allowed in §205.601 OR natural ingredients listed in §205.602 as prohibited?

- No. Complete ingredients list?

- Yes. Contact manufacturer for full ingredient disclosure. All active and inactive ingredients must be approved for use.
- No. Allowed. Confirm approval with WSDA prior to use.

Additional Resource:
NOP Guidance: Materials for Organic Crop Production (NOP 5034)