

# Standards Interpretation Committee

## Questions and Answers Regarding National Standards for Organic Agriculture

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The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, in partnership with the Organic Federation of Canada, has developed the Organic Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC).

The objective of the Committee is to provide, to the Canada Organic Office, interpretive guidance on issues related to the National Standards for Organic Agriculture (CAN/CGSB 32.310 and CAN/CGSB32.311).



Below are proposed answers to questions, raised by organic stakeholders, regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture. The proposed responses are subject to a 60 day comment period. All comments regarding these answers should be sent to

[OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca)

**Public Comment Period: February 13<sup>th</sup> to April 13<sup>th</sup> 2015**

### Specific Production Requirements

#### Sprout Production

##### **Can bean sprout grown hydroponically be certified organic? (245)**

Hydroponics is defined as the "Cultivation of plants in aqueous nutrient solutions without the aid of soil" (see section 3 of the standards for the complete definition). Since sprouting of beans does not use a nutrient solution, it is not considered hydroponics. Section 7.4 addresses the production of sprouts.

#### Wild Crops

##### **Can wild seaweed meal be certified? (244)**

Yes, seaweed meal can be certified under Section 7.6 - Wild crops - if it is for a food or feed use.

### Permitted Substances Lists

#### Clove Oil

##### **Is clove oil allowed as an organic sprout inhibitor for potatoes? (27)**

Table 4.3 of the PSL lists "plant extracts, oils and preparations" as acceptable crop production aids. Clove oil would be acceptable for use on potatoes.

#### Citric Acid

##### **Can citric acid be used as a pH adjuster during the extraction of Fulvic Acid? (248)**

Yes. Citric acid is allowed as a pH adjuster in 32.311 Table 4.3.