

Questions and Answers Regarding National Standards for Organic Agriculture

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

The objective of the Committee is to provide to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency Office interpretive guidance on issues related to the National Standards for Organic Agriculture (CAN/CGSB-32.310 and CAN/CGSB-32.311).



Below are proposed answers to questions raised by organic stakeholders, regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture.

REPORT

Public Comment Period

June 26 to July 26, 2025

All of the following Questions and Answers have been moved to the [Final Questions and Answers](#) section on the OFC website on November 21, 2025.

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Organic principles and management standards

Non-organic agricultural sources in growth media for mushroom production

When preparing substrates and growth media for mushroom production, must agricultural substances from non-organic sources be composted prior to coming into contact with the spawn/mycelium or can those substances be added to the substrate during the phase/stage when the spawn/mycelium is present ? (650.1)

All substances from non-organic agricultural sources must be composted prior to use at any stage/phase of mushroom production (7.3.2.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.310).

Permitted Substances Lists

COMMENTED - REWORDED

Non-organic agricultural substances as compost feedstocks

When non-organic agricultural substances, excluding manure, are used on-farm as compost feedstocks, what requirements must be met for them to be considered composted? (650.2)

In this case, the compost produced on-farm must exclude manures or other likely sources of human pathogens and be the product of a carefully managed aerobic process by which biological materials are digested by microorganisms. ~~Consequently, the compost would not need to reach a temperature of 55 °C (130 °F) for a period of four consecutive days (See Compost produced on the farm, Table 4.2).~~ With the absence of manure, the heating stage of the composting process will not need to be recorded. The requirements for Compost feedstocks in Table 4.2 still apply.

Chitosan as a microbial product

Is chitosan extracted from mushrooms permitted for crop production under the Microorganisms and microbial products listing in Table 4.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.311? (647)

No. Chitosan is chemically extracted from chitin. Extraction from chitin in mushrooms does not make the substance a living or dead microorganism, or a permitted extract of the same. Chitosan, regardless of the source of chitin, would require its own listing in Table 4.2 to be permitted.

Yellow Prussiate of Soda in feed

Is salt containing Yellow Prussiate of Soda (YPS) as an anti-caking agent permitted in livestock feed? (648)

No. YPS is a non-nutritive feed additive which is not listed in Table 5.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.311 as required by 6.4.4 a) in CAN/CGSB-32.310.