

# 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 (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.

**The proposed responses are subject to a 30-day comment period. All comments regarding these answers should be sent to [cfia.opr-rpb.acia@canada.ca](mailto:cfia.opr-rpb.acia@canada.ca).**

## Public Comment Period

**June 26 to July 26, 2025**

## Table of contents

### Organic principles and management standards

Non-organic agricultural sources in growth media for mushroom production..... 2

### Permitted Substances Lists

Non-organic agricultural substances as compost feedstocks ..... 2

Chitosan as a microbial product ..... 2

Yellow Prussiate of Soda in feed..... 2

## 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

### 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 ). 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.