



# Organic Food Federation

## Explanatory Note 326

*These notes are intended to help applicants comply with Organic EC Regulation 2092/91. They are not exhaustive and are for explanation only. In cases of doubt the Regulation or the OFF should be consulted.*

### Using Wild Plant Ingredients in Organic

In EC Regulation 2092/91 and compendium of EC Organic Standards:

**Annex III Specific Provisions A.1.1** requires that

“ where a producer limits his activity to the collection of wild plants, *he must* show the storage and production premises and land parcels and/or collection areas and, where applicable, premises where certain processing and/or packaging operations take place and specify the date of the last application on the parcels and/or collection areas concerned of products which are not compatible with Article 6(1)(b). an independent certification body can verify and guarantee the authenticity of wild plants.”

**Annex I Plant and Plant Products A.4** states that:

“the collection of edible plants and parts thereof, growing naturally in natural areas, forests or agricultural areas, is considered an organic production method providing that:

- Those areas have received no treatments with products other than those referred to in AnnexII for a period of three years before the collection.
- The collection does not affect the stability of the natural habitat or the maintenance of the species in the collection area.”

Basically, wild plants which have been authenticated by an independent inspection body can be considered organic and may be used as an organic input.

The best assurance of authenticity is a certificate issued by an organic inspection body having inspected the plant habitat, collection methods and sustainability plan which verifies that the specified plant or plants were collected from a suitable wild habitat.

If you are importing a product from a third country in which one or more ingredients are from wild collection or are wild crafted, you should ensure that this can be verified when an application for authorisation to import is sent to DEFRA and if you are submitting products for certification by OFF, we also need to have proof of authenticity in order to accept them as components in an organic product.

Any plant product imported from a third country which is intended for use in organic products must be approved in advance by DEFRA.

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The Organic Food Federation have standards for Wild Plant products that are used as the basis of their certification. In these the following principles apply:

- *Wild land is that which has not had any agricultural inputs applied and is free from any human cultivation other than basic environmental management.*
- *Wild plants are the plants that grow naturally in natural areas, especially forests. Wild plants can be considered tree products, plants and fungi which grow in the wild habitat which are not cultivated and are isolated from any polluting effects of the activities in farming, industry or road traffic.*
- *The collection of the wild plants does not affect the stability of the natural habitat or the maintenance of the species in the collection area.*
- *The products of hunting and fishing of wild animals cannot be used in organic products.*
- *Only basic raw material collected in the wild can be certified as Wild Plants.*
- *Wild plant ingredients can only be placed on the market as far as they satisfy all legally stipulated food safety requirements.*

Certification by other bodies is acceptable when it is based on documented standards which follow the same basic principles. (Proof may be required)

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