



ORGANIC FOOD FEDERATION

31, Turbine Way, Eco-Tech Business Park, Swaffham, Norfolk PE37 7XD
Tel: 01760 720444 Fax: 01760 720790

APPLICATION TO USE NON-ORGANIC SEED MIX

Article 22 (b) of 834/2007 provides that, by derogation, operators may use seed and seed potatoes from non-organic production where they cannot be obtained from organic production. Detailed rules on how this is to be applied are set out in Article 45 of 889/2008 and also in Articles 48 to 56 of 889/2008 which continue the use of the seed database to support operators in determining whether organic seed and seed potatoes are available. Management of derogations to use conventional seeds and seed potatoes has been delegated by Defra to the organic control bodies. Authorisation for the use of seed mixes for grass and forage seed when permitted by the operator's control body remains in place. Such mixes must contain at least 65% by weight of organic seed. **Operators must have the prior agreement of their control body for the use of non organic seed and seed potatoes. Except in the case of forage and grass seed mixes which contain 65% or more by weight of organic seed the agreement of the control body must be obtained before seed is sown and ideally before it is purchased.**

Please take note of the above when you are applying for a derogation to use non-organic seed. The Federation need the reason(s) for wanting to use non-organic seed before any purchases. Failure to do this may lead to the status of the crop being lost. Where forage mixes are used containing 65% or more organic seed, details of the non-organic seed within the mix can be submitted to the Federation after purchase.

Getting Approval

1. First check the availability of organic seeds on the UK organic seed database at www.organicxseeds.co.uk If web access is not available then availability can be checked by calling the Organic Food Federation 01760 720444.
2. **Single seed varieties:**
If the variety that you require is not available as organic seed and alternative varieties of the same crop are not suitable the Federation will consider your request to use non-organic seed. The justification must be from the following list:
3. **Seed mixes:**
 - At least 65% (by weight) of forage seed mixes must be organic. Producers using a mix containing 65% or more organic seed will not need to apply for approval prior to purchase. However it is a requirement that details are submitted retrospectively. Producers requesting approval to use a forage seed mix containing less than 65% organic seed will need to apply prior to purchase. Justification will be required for each non-organic variety used. Approval will only be given in extreme circumstances.
 - The 65% approach also applies to forage mixes. These include grass clover mixes and unharvestable mixes. An unharvestable mix is a mix containing two or more species from the following different groups that
 - Cannot be combine harvested: Cereals, Pulses, Grass and Clovers, Brassicas and Others e.g. Oil Seeds.

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4. Potatoes:

Seed potatoes must be sourced organically. Approval for non-organic varieties may be given in exceptional circumstances. Please contact the Federation to discuss the requirements. Applications will need to be made in writing

Reason for derogation request

- (a) No varieties of the species, which I want to use, are registered in the UK organic seed database.
- (b) The seed supplier is unable to deliver the seed or seed potatoes before sowing or planting despite ordering the seed or seed potatoes in reasonable time.
- (c) The variety, which I want to use, is not registered in the database and I can demonstrate that none of the registered alternatives of the same species are appropriate for my production (you will need to indicate the reason they are not appropriate).
- (d) For research purposes
 - (d1) To test in small scale field trials
 - (d2) For variety conservation purposes

Please be aware that the 50% requirement for 2004 has increased to 65% for 2005 and 2006.

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Please complete this form accurately. Incomplete forms cannot be processed

Operator Name		OFF operator No.	
Address			

*Please enter the justification for a derogation request by inserting one of the letters from the table of options listed on the previous page. Either (a), (b), (c) or (d). For (c) you must give written justification below. **Only relevant for forage mixes. Please enter the organic/non-organic status of each variety.

Please complete one sheet for each mix

	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Component 5
Crop species					
Variety					
Quantity – kg or no. of seeds					
Justification *					
Status of seed**					
Sowing/planting date					
Area planted – ha/sq metres					
Percentage organic					
Field reference numbers					
Supplier					

Make extra copies if more than 5 varieties are applied for at one time.

Complete box to explain the justification if reason (c) is used (provide additional information if available).

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CERTIFICATION BODY APPROVAL

Date application received		Approved / Not approved	
Approved by		Position	
Signature		Date	
Reason not approved			

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