Organic seeds **must** be used where available. However, non-organic seed to be used where no organic alternative is available. There are also no grounds for a derogation to use non-organic seed on the grounds of seed quality if the variety a user wants to use is registered in the database.

We need the reason(s) for wanting to use non-organic seed in most cases prior to purchases. Failure to do this may lead to the status of the crop being lost.

**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 our office.
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, we will consider your request to use non-organic seed. The justification must be from the list in Section 5.

1. **Seed mixes:**

* From the 1st January 2020 until the 31st December, it has been decided that the required organic content in an organic grass seed mix, currently at 70%, will be decreased to 50%.

On 1st January 2021 it will return to 70%.

* At least 50% (by weight) of grass and forage seed mixes must be organic. If using a mix containing at least 50% organic seed you will not need to apply for approval prior to purchase.
* Producers requesting approval to use a grass or forage seed mix containing less than 50% organic seed will need to apply prior to purchase.

Justification will be required for each non-organic variety used. Approval will only be given where organic seed is not available.

* Arable silage and whole crop seed mixes may be excluded from this provision and the required organic content will remain at 70%.
* The 50% 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 Other e.g. Oil Seeds.

1. **Potatoes:**

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

1. **Reason for derogation request**
2. No varieties of the species, which I want to use, are registered in the UK organic seed database.
3. 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.
4. 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).
5. For research purposes.

(d1) To test in small scale field trials

(d2) For variety conservation purposes

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 under Section 5. 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). |
|  |

**CERTFICATION BODY APPROVAL**

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