



# 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

The European Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91 states that organic seeds **must** be used where available. However, it also allows non-organic seed to be used where no organic alternative is available. The European Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1452/2003, published in August 2003, does not allow treated seed to be used any longer (as of 1 January 2004). 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.

**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 60% 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](http://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 60% (by weight) of forage seed mixes must be organic. Producers using a mix containing 60% 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 60% 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 60% 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 60% 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.

	Request 1	Request 2	Request 3	Request 4	Request 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 requests are applied for at one time.

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

## CERTIFICATION BODY APPROVAL

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