

MVOAI

Wild Crop, Greenhouse, and Apiary Guidelines

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Wild Crop, Greenhouse, and Apiculture Products - General Points

Detailed guidelines do not yet exist for apiculture, greenhouse, or wild crop production in the NOP standards. However the organic production, processing, and labeling of these products must follow all the NOP standards as provided in the MVOAI Standards manual. Until USDA publishes more detailed standards for such production methods, the following guidelines may be useful. These are suggested guidelines only.

Wild Crop Products

Wild products are produced in natural environments that are not generally subject to local impact, pollution or its detrimental influences. Wild products may be harvested from land or water ecosystems.

Wild products are not cultivated and managed by humans except for their harvest. Harvest methods used to collect wild products must maintain the target crop's capacity for continued

self-propagation, as well as for the flourishing of the populations of non-target species, and the ecosystem as a whole.

The sole management tool allowed for wild systems is adjustment of harvest levels and methods, based on monitoring of population levels. Wild products are exempt from certification regulations that require active organic management such as crop rotation and fertilization. Because wild crop products come from natural environments they may be used as ingredients in organically processed products.

Product Identification

All wild harvested species proposed for certification must be clearly identified. The operator should provide MVOAI information on the populations (historic, current, and projected) of each variety proposed for certification.

The operator should submit and utilize information on the life cycles of all species targeted for harvest to allow a firm understanding of continued population maintenance, growth requirements, and population fluctuations.

Description of the Supervised Area

The boundaries of the wild-harvested area must be clearly defined and, if applicable, differentiated from the boundaries of the harvest area. Maps must be used to show the harvest area as well as all other regions that the target organism inhabits throughout its life cycle. Maps must include topography, human developments, and other items of geological/geographical significance.

Management and Oversight by Supervisory Agencies

The wild-crop operator must supply information on how the area is monitored and/or managed by governmental bodies or other supervisory agencies that are in control of the area, if applicable. The same should be provided for privately owned land. The frequency of monitoring/research activities by the supervisory body must also be reported.

All regulations pertaining to the use of the area as well as any indirect impacts upon it by humans must be described or referenced. Information on mechanisms used for enforcement of these regulations must also be included.

The operator must present all required licenses or permits for harvest to MVOAI, along with an explanation of the responsibilities associated with holding such licenses as well as the frequency of their issuance. Specific use agreements between the party to be certified and the supervisory authority for the area must also be submitted.

Non-contamination

An analysis of the potential for contamination of the supervised area must be submitted along with documentation supporting the conclusions of the analysis. All direct and indirect human impacts on the supervised zone must be described as thoroughly as possible. Factors not linked to human-related impacts that can adversely affect the safety of the product for consumption by humans must also be documented and reported. The operator must submit a plan for ongoing monitoring of the supervised area to confirm that no contamination occurs. Any information regarding pollution of the target species' habitat must be reported to MVOAI.

Inspection

All harvested areas to be certified, as well as other areas that the target species inhabits during its life span, must be capable of being inspected.

Sustainability

The operator must submit anticipated harvest schedules for the current year and a minimum of 1 additional year. The operator must demonstrate that harvesting techniques are consistent with maintenance of a sustained population of the target species. When fluctuations of the target specie's population occur (as reflected by changes in harvest levels), the operator must demonstrate that the ecosystem as a whole, as well as the specie's population, is being adequately monitored.

Record Keeping

The record keeping system for wild harvest products must be capable of completely tracking the chain of custody for all certified products, from the point of sale back to the original area of harvest.

Apiculture Standards Guidance

Definitions

Apiculture definition. The management and production of honey bees and queens and their products including but not limited to honey, beeswax, pollen, royal jelly, propolis, and bee venom.

Forage zone. Land surrounding bee colonies that provides bees with water, nectar, honeydew, pollen, and propolis.

Apiculture practice

(a) Products from an apiculture operation that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic must be from hives which have been under continuous organic management for no less than 270 days prior to the removal of the products from the hive. If a prohibited material has been used in or on the hive prior to the 270-day transition, the producer must replace the hive's foundation with foundation made from organic wax and remove those products to be sold as organic, prior to the start of the transition period.

(b) A producer of organic apiculture products must develop an organic apiculture plan in accordance with the provisions in § 205.201. In addition, the organic apiculture plan must:

(1) Contain a map of the forage zone that shows the location of the hives, the location of organic and wild land, and the location of all non-organic areas;

(2) Describe the quantity of organic and/or wild forage to be provided per colony, including the type or types of forage, approximate bloom period, forage density, competing species density, honeybee colony density, colony health, colony strength, topography, and climatic conditions;

(3) Describe the water sources available in the forage zone;

(4) List all sanitary landfills, incinerators, sewage treatment facilities, power plants, golf courses, towns or cities, land to which prohibited materials are applied, and all other sources of potential contamination located in the forage zone; and

(5) For split operations, list and describe the management practices used to prevent commingling and contamination, including measures to prevent commingling resulting from bee drift and robbing.

(d) The producer must maintain hives on land that is managed in accordance with the provisions in § 205.202 through 205.206 or § 205.207.

(e) The producer must provide bees with forage that is managed in accordance with the provisions in § 205.202 through 205.206 or § 205.207.

(f) The producer of an organic apiculture operation may:

(1) Allow bees from their operation to forage on non-organically managed land when adequate forage from organically managed land and/or land that is managed in accordance with § 205.207, as defined by the operation's organic apiculture plan, has been provided; and

(2) Provide supplemental feed from organic honey, organic sugar syrup, and/or pollen substitutes and supplements that are allowed under 205.603, Except, That, the producer must not provide organic sugar syrup less than 30 days prior to the harvest of honey to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic.

(g) The producer of an organic apiculture operation must not:

(1) Maintain colonies in an area where land to which prohibited materials, as listed in § 205.105, are applied, or where another source of contamination is located less than 4 miles (6.4 kilometers) from the apiary, as described in the operation's organic apiculture plan.

(h) Approved hive construction materials:

(1) Hives must be made of natural materials, including wood and metal.

(2) Outside hive surfaces may be painted with non-lead based paints.

(3) Plastic foundation may be used if dipped in organic beeswax and mounted in a wooden frame.

(i) The producer must establish and maintain preventive health care practices, including:

(1) Selection of bee stocks, hive densities, and colony locations appropriate to site-specific conditions and resistant to prevalent diseases and pests;

(2) Introduction of replacement bees which are from organic sources or from non-organic sources, Provided, That the replacement bees are managed organically for at least 60 days prior to the removal of organic apiculture products from the hive;

(3) Maintenance of adequate supplies of honey and pollen in the hive, including leaving hives with reserves of honey and pollen sufficient for the colony to survive the dormancy period;

(4) Use of foundation wax not contaminated with diseases or pests;

(5) Destruction of equipment and bees contaminated with disease or pests;

(6) Use of management methods or modified equipment to control pests and diseases;

(7) Use of therapeutic applications of non-synthetic materials to control pests, parasites, and diseases, Provided, That such materials are not prohibited under § 205.604; and

(8) Use of therapeutic applications of synthetic materials, Provided, That such materials are allowed under § 205.603.

Handling Standards for Organic Apiculture Products:

Handling organic apiculture products.

(a) A handler of organic apiculture products must develop an organic handling plan in accordance with the provisions in § 205.201.

(b) A handler of organic apiculture products must maintain records in accordance with § 205.103.

(c) An operation which handles organic apiculture products must implement Good Manufacturing Practices and be in compliance with all handling requirements of § 205.270 through § 205.272.

(d) Primary handlers of organic apiculture products must not:

(1) Add water to honey to decrease the honey's viscosity;

(2) Use fine mesh filters or diatomaceous earth to separate seed crystals from honey;

(3) Use high-pressure honey filtration;

(4) Heat or handle organic apiculture products using kerosene heaters or any heating system which introduces petroleum fumes into the room; or

(5) Control stray bees or other insects using synthetic insecticides, repellants, or fumigants, unless such materials are allowed under § 205.605.

NOSB Guidelines for Greenhouse Production

Definitions

A Greenhouse may be defined as an enclosed structure used to grow organic crops, annual seedlings or planting stock used in organic production.

Greenhouse Production Systems

(a) Greenhouse operations must meet all applicable requirements of subparts B (205.103 – 205.105) and C (205.200 – 205.206) except that:

(1) The producer operating a greenhouse with crops grown in containers is exempt from requirements of 205.202, 205.203(a) and 205.205. In addition, the producer is exempt from the crop rotation and cover cropping requirements in section 205.203(b). The production environment must prevent contact between

organically produced crops and prohibited substances as listed in 205.105 throughout the entire production period.

(2) The producer of an in-ground permanent soil greenhouse system can seek an exemption from the crop rotation requirements of sections 205.203, and 205.205-205.206 provided that effective alternative strategies for developing and maintaining plant and soil health are established and approved by the certifying agent.

(b) The use of potting mixtures containing prohibited materials is not allowed.

(c) Producers may use artificial light sources

(d) Plants and soil shall not be in direct contact with wood treated with prohibited materials that is used for greenhouse structures or frames of raised beds.

(e) If a producer is growing both organic and non-organic greenhouse crops, the producer must comply with the provisions of 205.201(a)(5) to prevent commingling and contamination.

(f) Organic and non-organic crops can be grown within the same structure if the following conditions are met:

1. An impermeable wall shall separate organic and non-organic production sites if prohibited pesticides are applied to the non-organic crop at a time when the organic crop is present.
2. Adequate provisions must be made to prevent contamination of organic crops when producers alternate between organic and non-organic production during different times of the year.
3. The ventilation system must ensure that prohibited materials do not drift to the organic production area.
4. Separate watering systems must be established if prohibited fertilizers and/or pesticides are injected within the watering system.
5. Producers must insure that no contamination occurs to the organic crop through cross-pollination with crops produced through genetic engineering.
6. Soil mixing machines and other equipment used for non-organic crop production must be thoroughly cleaned prior to use in organic production, except that pesticide sprayers used in conventional production can not be used for organic production purposes; .
7. Adequate physical facilities, as determined by the certifying agent, shall separate organic and non-organic crops and production materials in storage, production or holding areas.
8. Organic and non-organic crops and production areas must be conspicuously labeled.