

Organic Standards

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Organic Standards

What does organic mean?

Organic potential for fruit

How do I become certified organic?

Rules for organic production in Canada

Organic rules in other countries

What is Organic?

- Holistic production system
- Emphasizes healthy food, farms, environment, communities
- Soil fertility through biological sources rather than synthetic chemicals
- Balance and diversity of insects, plants, microbes rather than 'cides
- No GMOs

Organic Potential – Canadian Fruit

Organic retail sales in Canada \$1 Bill/yr +
14% = fruit

Estimates still of 20% growth per year

Tremendous potential for replacement of
imported fresh, frozen and processed
fruit



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Saskatchewan Organic

Environment for organic production

- Low incidence of disease
- Less insect pressure
- Seen as pristine

Established organic community

- ~ 1300 organic producers in SK
- More farmers, acres than any province
- Leaders!



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Market for Organic Fruit

Fresh fruit

- Flavour, appearance lead consumers
- Organic consumers demand high quality
- Local organic stores would stock local

Frozen, dried, processed

Organic options for all these products

Prices higher where market is “mature”



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Certification process

- Organic certification will be mandatory
- Contact a certifier for documents
- Gather information on your operation
 - Plan
 - Records
- Submit questionnaire
- CB sends inspector

Certification process

- Inspector verifies paper work, field work, storage, handling, audit trail
- Inspector reports to certifier
- Certifier makes decision
- Certifier is audited by accreditation agency
- Annual inspection
- CFI A acts as “police” on complaint basis

Certified Every Step

- Organic product must meet standards for growing, harvesting, handling, storage, processing, transportation, marketing
- Processing facilities also need to be inspected and certified
- Maintain an audit trail through entire process, from field to consumer

Picking a Certification Body

- Generally common standards
- 28 CB in Canada
- SK groups: OCIA, Ecocert, ProCert, Quavera, (OPAM)
- Philosophy; location; accreditation; acceptance with brokers, traders, consumers; details of permitted substances



Canadian Organic

- Practices seek to nurture ecosystems and achieve sustainable productivity
- Standard includes principals, guidelines for production and lists of permitted and prohibited substances and practices



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Land base

- At least 24 mo before sowing, or for perennials 3 years before harvest
- Under supervision for at least 12 mo
- Natural production may be exempt from transition period
- No parallel production

Seed and planting stock

- Organic seed / rootstocks where possible
- No products of genetic engineering
- If production unit is organic, perennial planting stocks may be used after one year

Fertility Management

- Alley crops as green manures
- Animal manures from the organic farm
- Manures from other farms I F not caged, and no prohibited substances
- Preferably composted
- Must be approved by certifier
- 90 days before harvest off ground
- 120 days before harvest if ground contact

Soil Amendments

- Green manures and animal manures first
- Mined and unprocessed minerals if documented need
- Cd contamination below threshold
- Blood meal if sterilized
- Bone meal if no “risk materials”
- Always check with certifier

Weeds

- Managed in alleys through rotation, mowing
- Plastic mulches removed at end of season, must not decompose and become part of the soil. PVC mulches prohibited
- Always check inputs with certifier

Insect Management

- “Biological management” allowed
 - Encourage beneficials
 - Inundate with beneficials
 - Bt, etc
- Natural source pheromones

Insect Management

- Sticky traps
- Soaps of natural animal fats and plant oils
- Biorational pest management plan allows botanical pesticides of least toxic and disruptive (Rotenone)
- Always check with certifier

Disease

- Avoidance
- Pruning, removal
- Health support, sugar, microbials
- Some inputs, but list decreasing, restricted use only
 - Bordeaux mix (copper sulfate and lime)
- Always check with certifier

Sunburn

- Plant or milk based paints preferred
- Interior latex paint allowed

Processing

- No processing aids such as sulphates, packaging with fungicides, ionizing radiation
- Organic – 95+%
- Contains X % organic - 70-95%

Overall – Canadian Organic

- Requires planning, long-term thinking
- Are very few quick, simple solutions
- Requires paper trail for everything
 - Everything documented
 - Compliance on any input/process

United States - NOP

- US organic approx 50% of global
- Canadian standards will meet or exceed

European Union - EU 2092/91

- EU organic approx 50% of global
- Most should be equivalent
- Many countries have implemented stricter or more detailed national standards
- Exporters must work with the competent authority in the destination member state to obtain an original certification of inspection for each consignment.

Japan - JAS

- Consumer demand for organic products exceeds supply
- Quality and safety of product
- Environmental standards
- Generally handled by specialized import companies.
- OCIA has JAS accreditation
- Additional training required

JAS Extras:

- Disallow: Lignan sulfate, Alkali extracts, Humic acid, Potassium bicarbonate
- Require 5 yr documentation, 1 yr after shipping
- More emphasis on personnel training
- Maps of storage, grading records
- Improvement of internal regulations
- Label with farm or farmer of origin

Web Resources

Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada
(OACC) www.oacc.info

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF)
<http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca/>



University of Saskatchewan
<http://organic.usask.ca/>



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Web Resources

Saskatchewan Organic Directorate (SOD)

www.saskorganic.com

Canadian Organic Growers (COG)

www.cog.ca

Linking Organic Knowledge

OACC

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Thank you



Prairie organic farmers
And you!

