

OMRI Generic Materials List

The Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Its mission is to provide professional, independent, and transparent review of materials and processes to determine their suitability for producing, processing, and handling organic food and fiber.

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CONTENTS

About OMRI	2
Crop Production Materials	4
Livestock Production Materials	34
Processing and Handling Materials.	52
Appendices	
Appendix A: NOSB Recommendations	68
Appendix B: Livestock Vitamins & Minerals	72
Glossary	80



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About OMRI

The Organic Materials Review Institute, or OMRI, is a national nonprofit organization founded in 1997 to support the organic community. OMRI reviews products to determine their suitability for producing, processing, and handling organic food and fiber under the USDA National Organic Program Rule.

OMRI accepts applications from suppliers of products intended for use in organic production and handling. Through a consistent and independent process, OMRI decides which products are usable in organic production under the USDA National Organic Program. Accepted products are compiled in the *OMRI Products List*.

OMRI safeguards public trust in certified organic products through a transparent decision making process. OMRI's professional staff and independent Review Panels conduct the product reviews. An Advisory Council composed of technical experts helps oversee the development of policies and standards, while a diverse Board of Directors is responsible for their final approval.

Also, OMRI offers an array of services for the organic community and the general public. These include subscriptions for current information about standards, materials, and technical issues related to certification; instructive trainings; and expert assistance for certifiers with materials decisions.

About the OMRI Generic Materials List

The *OMRI Generic Materials List* is a compilation of the substances that OMRI has determined to be allowed or prohibited for use in organic production, processing, and handling under the USDA NOP Rule.

OMRI recognizes that the *OMRI Generic Materials List* is used for reasons other than to review products for the *OMRI Products List*. The *OMRI Generic Materials List* is also used by certified organic operators as they develop their organic system plans and manage their operations; by Accredited Certifying Agents as a guide for compliance; and by members of the public who want to use organic practices when gardening and landscaping. The policies and standards used to review commercial inputs for the OMRI Review Program may not be appropriate for the review of on-farm inputs and household recipes. Operators who seek organic certification should direct all questions regarding the

application or use of any input on a certified organic operation to their Accredited Certifying Agent.

The *OMRI Generic Materials List* is divided into three sections: Crop Production Materials, Livestock Production Materials, and Processing and Handling Materials. Materials included in each section are alphabetically listed and designated with an OMRI Status that indicates whether they are Allowed or Prohibited under the NOP Rule. OMRI's Restricted status indicates use restrictions that are required for compliant use of the material under the NOP Rule. OMRI developed the Restricted status to flag important regulatory qualifications for the material in question. Allowed, Restricted, and Prohibited are defined in each section of the *OMRI Generic Materials List* and also in the glossary.

Each listing also includes:

- **OMRI Class** – groups materials according to several broad uses, such as Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments.
- **OMRI Annotation** – details use parameters, provides additional information, and NOP Rule specifications.
- **NOP Rule citations** – cites applicable regulatory sections.

Good Use Practices

Compliant materials must be used in accordance with the regulatory annotations. Certain materials can be harmful to the environment or human and livestock health if used improperly. Good management practices should be followed as outlined in the NOP Rule (§205.200 – §205.290) with awareness and care for the environment and the safety of the workers involved. Additionally, users of materials should carefully follow use guidelines and restrictions set out in the *OMRI Generic Materials List* as well as label instructions on products.

The *OMRI Generic Materials List* and the National Organic Standards

OMRI's Generic Materials List is intended to conform to the NOP Rule's National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (§205.600 – §205.606). The National List contains the exceptions for allowed or prohibited substances. It specifies the synthetic materials that are allowed and the nonsynthetic materials that are prohibited in crop and livestock production. For processing it specifies the nonagricultural, nonorganic substances and nonorganically produced agricultural substances that are allowed in the production of processed organic products. While

most materials included on the National List are in the *OMRI Generic Materials List*, OMRI has also included a number of allowed nonsynthetic and prohibited synthetic substances typically encountered in production but not explicitly cited in the National List. For example, many nonsynthetic substances that do not appear on the National List but are explicitly prohibited by NOP Rule §205.105(c) are included in the *OMRI Generic Materials List*.

OMRI standards are updated as necessary to reflect changes to applicable federal laws or regulations. Please check the OMRI website (www.omri.org) to be sure you have the most current OMRI standards.

NOSB Recommendations

Users of the *OMRI Generic Materials List* should note that the NOSB recommendations listed in Appendix A have not yet been incorporated into the regulations. Before these materials can be officially placed on the National List, they must go through a formal rulemaking process which requires publication in the *Federal Register* as proposed amendments to the NOP Rule and a public comment period. OMRI has listed these materials with their current NOP status with the understanding that the status is subject to change.

Regulatory Compliance

OMRI does not provide any guarantee or warranty, expressed or implied, for any of the materials included in the *OMRI Generic Materials List*. OMRI is not responsible for the loss of certification, loss of organic status, or other consequences for failure to comply with organic legal or certification standards. Any inputs and ingredients intended to be used in organic production and handling should appear on the Organic System Plan and are subject to approval by the certifier. Decisions on the compliance of the use or application of a specific material are the responsibility of the certifier. Producers, processors, and handlers with questions about the acceptability of use or any restrictions on use of a particular material should contact their certifiers or enforcement officials for information. To stay current with NOP guidelines that may affect a material status and/or a material use, users of the *OMRI Generic Materials List* should regularly check the NOP website (www.ams.usda.gov/nop) for updates.

In addition to the NOP Rule standards regulating substances used in organic production, other Federal, State, and local laws

and regulations apply. OMRI makes no representation that the materials listed here comply with any of these other requirements. It is the user's responsibility to determine the compliance of a particular substance with all applicable laws and regulations.

About the OMRI Products List

Through its Review Program, OMRI publishes the *OMRI Products List*. The *OMRI Products List* is a compilation of products OMRI has reviewed and found to be suitable for use in organic production, processing, and handling. Products included on the *OMRI Products List* have been reviewed against standards developed by OMRI for assessing compliance with the NOP Rule. Only those products that have passed this review are included in the *OMRI Products List* and can display the OMRI Listed® seal on product labels and in advertising and promotions. Companies interested in submitting their products for review should contact OMRI for information about the program and for an application kit.

The *OMRI Products List* should be used together with the *OMRI Generic Materials List*. While the *OMRI Generic Materials List* contains information about substances in general, the *OMRI Products List* contains formulated products. Users should be aware that material entries from the *OMRI Generic Materials List* are used as categories for products in the *OMRI Products List*. However, the formulated products on the *OMRI Products List* may contain other ingredients than the generic material under which it is listed.

Certified organic operators must have their accredited certifying agent approve the use of any product used in their operations regardless of whether it appears on the *OMRI Products List*. Decisions regarding the listing status of products on the *OMRI Products List* are based on information submitted to OMRI by the product's supplier. OMRI does not warrant that the contents of any listed product are as represented by the supplier.

OMRI updates the *OMRI Products List* quarterly and republishes the list annually. Users should check the OMRI website to be sure they have the most current listings.