

# Overview of the PCA/CCA Role in Providing Nutrient and Pest Control Advice to Organic Growers

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California/California Certified Crop  
Advisers



## Organic Fertilizer Association of California

- “Representing the California Organic Fertilizer Industry and promoting the knowledge of safe and effective organic farming systems through outreach, education and legislation”
- OFAC members provide fertilizer products that meet the USDA National Organic Program’s (NOP) standards and many members also provide guidance to growers on how to improve soil health and fertility through organic farming methods.





The California Association of Pest Control Advisers (CAPCA) represents more than 75% of the nearly 3,000 California EPA licensed pest control advisers (PCAs) that provide pest management consultation for the production of food, fiber and ornamental industries of this state. CAPCA's mission is to facilitate the success of the licensed pest control adviser. CAPCA's purpose is to serve as the leader in the evolution of the pest management industry through the communication of reliable information.

## California Certified Crop Advisers

- Voluntary Certification Program
- Standards by International CCA, State CCA
- Administered by American Society of Agronomy And California Board
- Emphasizes Fertilizer, Water Quality, Crop Management, and Plant Nutrient Issues
- Incorporates California PCA License



# National Organic Program

- The National Organic Program (NOP) develops, implements, and administers national production, handling, and labeling standards for organic agricultural products. The NOP also accredits the certifying agents (foreign and domestic) who inspect organic production and handling operations to certify that they meet USDA standards.



## What is organic?

Organic production is a system that is managed in accordance with the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) of 1990 (PDF) and regulations in Title 7, Part 205 of the Code of Federal Regulations to respond to site-specific conditions by integrating cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity. The National Organic Program (NOP) develops, implements, and administers national production, handling, and labeling standards.

## NOP Regulates

- Accredited Certifying Agents
- Practices
- Record Keeping
- Allowed and Prohibited Substances
- Certification of Farms



## Producers

- Three year transition period.
- Organic Plan
  - Foster Soil Fertility Through Management of Organic Matter, Crop Rotation and Manuring.
  - No GMOs



## Practices Must Be Implemented

- Soil fertility and crop nutrient management practice standard
- Seeds and planting stock practice standard.
- Crop rotation practice standard.
- Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard



– NOP Regulations



## CDFA Organic Program

- **CDFA's Organic Program is responsible for enforcement of the federal Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, and the California Organic Products Act of 2003.**
- **Activities include: program administration, County biologist training, initiation of complaint investigation, registration of private certification organizations, and act as an information resource on the California Organic Products Act and California's organic industry.**



# Allowed Materials

- NOP Regulation
  - List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances
- USI  FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION
- Washington State Department of Agriculture
  - Registers materials suitable for certified organic production
- Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI)
  - Lists materials suitable for certified organic production



# Materials

- Do research
- Ask questions
- Liquid N 3% or higher must have audit
- Does it pass the “smell” test
- Fact/Opinion



# California Material Regulation

- California Department of Pesticide Regulation
- California Department of Food and Agriculture Fertilizer Inspection Program



California Department of Pesticide  
Regulation

*Our mission is to protect human health  
and the environment by regulating  
pesticide sales and use, and by  
fostering reduced-risk pest  
management.*

## CDFA Fertilizer Law

- Law defines products, processes and other business terms including definition for “Natural Organic Complexes” and “Natural Organic Fertilizer”. These definitions accurately describe fertilizer materials; however definitions are inconsistent with terms such as “organic” when used in context with the NOP. Fertilizers acceptable to be used in an organic production program are considered to be “inputs” and organic and in some cases synthetic.



## CDFA Fertilizer Law

- AB 856 – Became law January 1, 2010. Gives CDFA authority to regulate fertilizers used as organic inputs.
- Imposes penalties for misrepresentation.
- Developing Regulations
- Registration of Organic Inputs



## AB 856

- Will regulate compost that is sold as a OIM
- Registration of products – January 1, 2011
- Label effective date – January 1, 2012
- Fills gap in CDFA Authority
- Procedures and regulations posted for comment.



## AB 856



- Requires registration of fertilizers used as OIM
- Requires inspection of manufacturing facilities
- Provides access to records
- Violation a misdemeanor
- Can prohibit a person from obtaining a license to sell OIM for three years

## Proposed CDFA Organic Input Logo



## Read The Label

- Contents
- Direction for Use
- Information on Use for Certified Organic



## Must Have Integrity of Organic Product

We all have a role.



### **Santa Cruz organic farm wins pesticide suit**

#### **Crop of herbs wiped out by chemicals sprayed nearby**

- "The message from the jury is pretty clear, both to industry and to regulators: It's not acceptable to apply these poisonous chemicals and turn your back on the consequences after the point of application," said Nathan Benjamin, an attorney for the organic farm.

## Resources

(very partial list)



- California State Universities –Fresno, SLO, Chico
- UCD/UCSC
- CCOF
- Suppliers/Retailers
- Exhibitors/Speakers
- County Extension Service
- Local Community Colleges
- Organizations
- OFAC
- Conferences
  - Eco Farm
  - SLO IPM
  - CAPCA/OFAC/CCA



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- Organic Fertilizer Association of California
- California Certified Crop Advisers
- California Association of Pest Control Advisers

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[www.capca.com](http://www.capca.com)

- [www.organicfertilizerassociation.org](http://www.organicfertilizerassociation.org)



Thanks



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