

## Non-Organic Seed Derogation

1. Check availability of organic seeds on the UK organic seed database at [www.organicXseeds.com](http://www.organicXseeds.com)  
If you don't have web access, phone your control body or OCW and they will check for you.
2. **Single seed variety:** If the variety that you require is not available as organic seed, and alternative varieties of the same crop are not suitable, the certification office will consider your request to use non-organic seed. **You must have confirmation before you buy the seeds.**

The justification must be from the following list:

- (a) No variety 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).
  - (d1) For research purposes.
  - (d2) To test in small-scale field trials.
  - (d3) For variety conservation purposes.
  - (e) The seed is part of a grass or forage mix containing at least 60%\*\* organic seeds.
3. **Seed mixes:** At least **65%** (by weight) of grass & forage seed mixes must be organic and used for whole crop only. Producers using a mix containing at least 65% organic seed will not need to apply for approval prior to purchase. **However a derogation must be obtained prior to your next inspection. \*\* Soil Association Licensees are requested to put details of 65% seed mixes used on their annual questionnaire.**

Producers requesting approval to use a grass or forage seed mix containing less than 65% organic seed will need approval prior to purchase. Justification will be required for the non-organic varieties used.



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4. Potatoes: Seed potatoes must be sourced organically. Approval for non-organic varieties may be given in exceptional circumstances. Contact your control body to discuss the requirements. Applications will need to be made in writing and copies of growing contracts maybe requested.
5. Treated seeds are not allowed.
6. Make sure that you complete the derogation form accurately as incomplete forms will not be processed.

You will need the following info when completing the derogation form

- Seed supplier
- Field Reference No.'s
- Total area in ha
- Date of sowing
- Percentage of organic seed used on the holding

Always remember to keep the ticket off the seed bag, and a copy of the invoice, before it goes to the accountant! If you are unsure about the above, please contact your control body.