

Certification, Standards & Regulations

Organic production is a system whose ultimate goal is the preservation of the environment and the production of healthy and safe foods. Practitioners follow specific growing, handling and processing standards from the soil to the consumer's table.

According to the Canadian Organic Standards (National Standard of Canada CAN/CGSB-32.310 Organic Production Systems General Principles and Management Standards), the following are the general principles of organic production:

1. Principle of Health – Organic agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plants, animals, humans and the planet as one and indivisible.
2. Principle of Ecology – Organic agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.
3. Principle of fairness - Organic agriculture should be built on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to common environment and life opportunities.
4. Principle of care – Organic agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

The key objectives of this production system are the preservation of soil life, the sustenance of soil humus, the protection of ground water, the elimination of synthetic or "chemical" fertilizers and synthetic pesticides from the food supply, and the maintenance of the health and economic welfare of farmers. Not only does this system prohibit the use of highly soluble fertilizers and synthetic pesticides but it also prohibits the use of synthetic growth regulators, irradiation as a food preservation technique, genetically modified organisms (GMO) and intentionally manufactured nano-technology products. There are also very strict protocols on the use of manure, compost and antibiotics.

Organic Certification Agencies:

In New Brunswick, there are some certification bodies that have a role to ensure organic products and processed foods are grown and processed according to organic standards. These organizations will permit the product to be labeled "Organic" when appropriate procedures are followed. Independent inspectors are also involved to verify the integrity of the organic production system. Growers participate in comprehensive record keeping that track the inputs, raw materials and procedures used in the growing and processing of organic products.

Organic certification agencies offering their services in NB:

OCIA-International-Canada: Organic Crop Improvement Association

Contact: Marg Laberge, Member Services

Address : 4829 47th, Ave, St-Paul, AB, T0A 3A3

Phone: (780) 851-9482

Fax: (888) 823-3372

Web: <http://www.ocia.org/>

Courriel: mlaberge@ocia.org

Atlantic Certified Organic Co-operative Ltd. (Chapter of TransCanada Organic Certification Services)

Contact: Tara Scott

Address: 180 St. John St, Fredericton, NB, E3B 4A9

Tel.: 1(888) 375-9190

Fax: 1(506) 454-4155

Web: <http://www.atlanticcertifiedorganic.ca>

Email: info@atlanticcertifiedorganic.ca

Ecocert Canada

Contact: Line Plamondon

Address: Lévis, Québec

Tel: 1-855-246-9383, post 213

Web: <http://www.ecocert.com/en>

Email: info.canada@ecocert.com

Pro-Cert Organic Systems Ltd.

Eastern Office: Sean Manley

Address: 2311 Elm Tree Road, P.O.Box 74, Cambray, ON KOM 1E0

Tel.: (705) 374-5602

Fax: (705) 374-5604

Web: <http://pro-cert.org/>

Email: infoebo@pro-cert.org

Seeds Canada dba Centre for Systems Integration (CSI)

Contact: Dave Lockman

Address: Suite 1100-85 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON K1P 6A4

Tel: 613-236-6451

Toll Free: 1-800-516-3300

Email: [https://Seeds Canada \(seeds-canada.ca\)](https://Seeds Canada (seeds-canada.ca))

NB Organic Grade Regulation:

In 2014, the province of New Brunswick implemented an organic regulation, the NB Organic Grade Regulation. This regulation ensures that all products labelled, advertised or marketed as organic which are produced, processed and sold within NB have been certified organic in accordance with the Federal Organic Products Regulations and the Canadian Organic Standards. The NB Organic Grade Regulation is available at: <http://laws.gnb.ca/en/ShowTdm/cr/2014-50/>

Furthermore, frequently asked questions about the Regulation can be accessed at: [FAQ: NB Organic Grade Regulation](#).

Organic Products Regulations (Federal Regulations)

As of January 15, 2019, the 2009 Organic Products Regulations was replaced by Part 13 - Organic Products, of the Safe Food for Canadian Regulations (SFCR). This component of the SFCR has a direct impact on the Canadian organic certification system. Canadian organic producers and processors that are involved with inter-provincial and export/import trade must comply with these federal Regulations and consequently must meet the Canadian Organic Standards. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for monitoring and enforcing the Regulations. The Part 13 of the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations is available at: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2018-108/index.html>

Canadian Organic Standards:

The Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB), with the collaboration of many organic industry stakeholders, including the Organic Federation of Canada, has developed and is maintaining the Canadian Organic Standards for Agriculture. The Standards are comprised of two documents: The General Principles and Management Standards ([CAN/CGSB-32.310-2015](#), amended March 2018), and the Permitted Substance Lists ([CAN/CGSB-32.311-2015](#), amended March 2018). In 2018, the Organic Aquaculture Standards were reviewed and republished ([CAN/CGSB-32.312-2018](#)).

Questions and answers regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture. Prepared by the Organic Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC):

<https://www.inspection.gc.ca/organic-products/standards/questions-and-answers/eng/1327811485401/1327811671402>

The New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries has an organic specialist on staff. This individual's responsibilities range from providing support to the existing industry, to facilitating its growth and identifying new opportunities for the industry. This specialist also provides technical advice to producers who plan to initiate a transition from conventional to organic farming.