

The logo for NASAA organic features the word "NASAA" in a bold, dark green, sans-serif font. Below it, the word "organic" is written in a smaller, yellow, lowercase sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic of three leaves: a large dark green leaf at the bottom, a smaller yellow leaf above it, and a small registered trademark symbol (®) to the right of the yellow leaf.

NASAA
organic

Organic Composting, Certification and the industry

Peter Hastie
Operations Manager
NASAA-2016

Certified Organic Compost

- NASAA
- The Industry
- Composting & The Certification process
- Recent reviews- what inputs can I use

History

- **FORMED IN 1986**
- **NCO- PROVIDES INTEGRATED SUPPLY CHAIN CERTIFICATION SERVICES**
- **NASAA- EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY WIDE DEVELOPMENT &**
- **NETWORKING AND INDUSTRY LEADING SUPPORT SERVICES**



NASAA label



NCO Certification Label



INPUT LABEL



HOW DO I GET IN CONTACT?

- INFORMATION PACKS
- NASAA WEBSITE: WWW.NASAA.COM.AU
- FACEBOOK: /NASAACERTIFIEDORGANIC
- TWITTER:/NASAAORGANIC
- YOUTUBE:/NASAAORGANICS
- LINKED IN:/ COMPANY/NASAA-CERTIFIED-ORGANIC

THE INDUSTRY-SOME FACTS

- \$1.8 BILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY AND GROWING.
- DEMAND VERSUS SUPPLY- A 40% DEFICIT
- SHIFTING CONSUMER DEMANDS
- COMPARATIVE SIZE



THE INDUSTRY-SOME FACTS

- Australia has the greatest amount of certified agricultural land in the world with about 22 million hectares in full certification or in conversion
- It is estimated the certified organic market is worth around US\$91 billion globally with Australia's share sitting at just under \$2 billion.

Soil health- Composting and the Certification process



Section 4.4 pp 36

- Healthy soil is the primary prerequisite for healthy plants, animals and products.
- With organic farming, the care of living soil and consequently the maintenance or improvement of soil fertility, particularly nutrient cycling, is fundamental to all measures adopted.
- Organic farming returns plant or animal material to the soil to increase or at least maintain its fertility and biological activity.

The Standards and Composting sect 3.6

- Optimum soil fertility, soil structure and biological activity are fundamental aims of organic farming.
- Organic growing systems are soil based.
- Soil health forms a cornerstone component of Organic production systems.



Compost

- Nutrient cycling function
- At low levels it can add significantly to soil microbial activity
- At moderate levels it can provide important nutrients
- At higher levels it can improve soil structure and cation exchange capacity

NASAA STANDARDS 3.6

- Crop production, processing and handling systems shall return nutrients, organic matter and other resources removed from the soil through harvesting by the recycling, regeneration and addition of organic materials and nutrients.
- Composts must be effectively manufactured regardless of the technique used.
- Leachates must be prevented from contaminating ground or surface water systems.

NASAA STANDARDS 3.6

- Testing of compost or raw materials to establish acceptability of the final product may be required.
- The application of compost shall reflect the crop nutrient requirements, soil and climatic conditions and prevent contamination of ground and or surface water and the land.
- All materials brought onto the farm must be below acceptable levels of contamination with pesticides and heavy metals.

NASAA STANDARDS 3.6

- Operators must aim to improve soil structure and cultivation must be minimised.
- A measure of OM levels at the time of application shall be provided.
- The use of long fallows as the principal basis for weed control is not permitted.
- Where successive inspections reveal that excessive tillage or other management factors have contributed to declining soil structure, a producer will be required to develop and implement a plan for soil restoration. Regular monitoring of soil organic matter will be part of any restoration plan.

STEPS TO CERTIFICATION

- APPLICATION
- PRODUCT DESCRIPTION
- INSPECTION
- APPROVAL

Recent reviews- where is the line drawn with inputs and process.



Recent reviews

- The use of animal manures in the composting process and how far back in the supply chain one needs to go for reporting and compliance purposes.
- *GMO's* in composting

Animal Manures

- 3.2.6: Inputs, processing aids and ingredients shall be traced back **one step** in the biological chain to the direct source organism from which they are produced to verify that they are not derived from GMOs.

Genetically modified Organisms in composting

- NASAA Standards
- The accidental, deliberate use and/or the negligent introduction of genetically engineered organisms or their derivatives to organic farming systems or products are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - farm inputs such as fertilisers and compost
 - Any products that are tested and reveal the presence of GMO's will be decertified.

Genetically modified Organisms in composting

- National standards
- Defined:
- **genetically modified organisms (GMOs):** means materials produced through the modern engineering methods of biotechnology; specifically gene technology, “recombinant DNA (rDNA)” and all other techniques using molecular and/or cell-biology for altering the genetic make-up of living organisms in ways or with results which do not occur in nature or through traditional breeding.

National Standard position

- 3.3.1 pp15 The use of genetically modified organisms or their derivatives is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to, animals, seed and farm inputs such as fertilisers, soil conditioners, vaccines, crop production materials, food additives or processing aids.

WHY US?

- **Quality, commitment and Integrity of Service.**
- **Recognition both at home, and abroad.**
- **Certification has been our focus since 1986.**

THANKYOU peter.hastie@nasaa.com.au

