



# What products can I use on my Farm?

A step by step guide to help you determine if you can use a product in your  
National Standard or AS 6000 organic operation.

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**Southern Cross Certified Australia Pty Ltd**  
PO Box 193, Spring Hill, Qld, 4004  
[www.sxcertified.com.au](http://www.sxcertified.com.au)  
Email: [info@sxca.com.au](mailto:info@sxca.com.au)  
Ph: +61 7 3088 2808

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## Who Should Use this Publication?

This publication is aimed at those operators who are certified by Southern Cross Certified (SXC) to the National Standard for Organic and Bio-dynamic Produce, or to AS 6000 - Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic produce.

This document does not contain information relating to the USDA NOP certification system, nor for organic produce certified to EU requirements. Operators who are seeking information relating to those two standards, should contact SXC directly on (07) 3088 2808 where we can point you to documents that contain detailed information about allowable inputs for those standards.

## Organic Operation Inputs

What do we mean by Input? An input is any product that you bring into your operation. Some examples of inputs are :

- soil fertilising and conditioning
- plant pest and disease control
- livestock pest and disease control
- livestock feed additives
- products used for sanitation, storage and handling
- substances permitted as post-harvest treatments
- processing inputs
- food additives for plant and livestock products and
- processing aids for plant and livestock products.



Organic systems require that **inputs be only used as a last resort** and their use be kept to a minimum and applied only on an 'as needs' basis. Another key concept is that inputs must not be used as a permanent measure to support a poorly designed or poorly managed system. Non-essential use of inputs is counter to organic and biodynamic farming principles.



However, when you do need to use an input, you must ensure that the product is suitable for use in organic systems. In general, inputs must be of plant, animal, microbial or mineral origin and not:

- have been derived from genetic modification technology, or
- have been treated with ionising radiation, or
- interfere with the natural metabolism of livestock and plants, or
- have been manufactured / produced using nanotechnology.

So, how can you tell if a product meets all these requirements? We will give you a simple step by step process that you can use to determine the suitability of a product for use in an organic system:



## Step 1 – Look for a Certification Mark

The first thing to do is look for a certification mark on the product you intend to use. A certification mark is a sure way of telling that a competent organisation has reviewed the product, and the processes by which the product is manufactured and determined that the product is suitable for use in an organic system.

Examples of certification marks that you can trust in Australia are below:

**Southern Cross Certified**  
[SXC Product Search](#)



**NASAA**  
[NASAA Input Search](#)



**ACO**  
[ACO Inputs Search](#)



Certification marks are usually found at the bottom sides or backs of products.

If your product has a certification mark, you can be 99% sure that it is ok to use. To be 100% sure, you should visit the web site of the certifier (listed above) and search for the product.

Be sure to carefully read the label as not all products with certification marks are suitable for all organic standards such as USDA NOP and EU. If you are unsure about the products suitability for those standards, please contact SXC on (07) 3088 2808.



Please note that Allowed Input products are only certified for the manner in which they are intended to be used. For example, it is not acceptable to use a livestock feed supplement as a soil fertiliser.



## Step 2 – Find the Input in the Tables

The “Allowed Input Lookup Table” lists various substances that are permitted (or prohibited in some circumstances) by the various organic standards.

### How to Use the Table

To use the table, try to locate your product / substance in the first column.

If viewing this document electronically, a word search may help.

The next 5 columns will tell you which standards permit the use of the product, and for what purposes:

**Key:**                    **A:** AS 6000 - Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic produce  
                               **N:** National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic produce

The last column will detail any restrictions or conditions of the use of the product. If a restriction applies only to a particular standard, this will be highlighted in the restriction.

### Allowed Input Lookup Table Example

In order to determine if *Pyrethrum* is acceptable for use as an input, “Allowed Input Lookup Table” is searched and the following row is found and is shown below:

Substance	Soil Fert	Plant		Livestock		Restrictions / Notes
		Pest	Disease	Pest	Disease	
Pyrethrum		A, N	N	A, N	A, N	<b>AS6000:</b> Extracted from natural sources only, without Piperonyl Butoxide <b>National Standard:</b> Extracted from <i>Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium</i>

#### **Interpretation:**

Pyrethrum cannot be used as a soil fertiliser, or as an ingredient of a soil fertiliser.

For **AS 6000**, Pyrethrum can be used for plant pest control and livestock pest and disease control, so long as it is extracted from natural sources and does not contain Piperonyl Butoxide. It cannot be used for Plant Disease Control.

For the **National Standard**, Pyrethrum can be used for all purposes except soil fertilisation, so long as it is extracted from *Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium*.

## Allowed Input Lookup Table

Substance	Soil Fert	Plant		Livestock		Restrictions / Notes
		Pest	Disease	Pest	Disease	
Acids: Citric, Di-Acids, Maleic and Tri-Acids	A, N					Natural (non-synthetic) Chelating Agents
Acids - Natural		A, N		A		Also see vinegar.
Animal Manures	A, N					<b>AS6000 and National Standard:</b> Composted or followed by at least two green manure crops in cropping system.
Ayurvedic Preparations		A, N	A, N	A, N	A, N	
Baits for Fruit Fly		A, N				Substances as required by regulation. Baits shall be fully enclosed within traps
Biological Controls		A, N	A, N	A, N		<b>All Uses:</b> Naturally occurring cultured organisms. <b>Livestock Pest Control:</b> Also, naturally occurring organisms are permitted.
Blood and Bone, Fish-Meal, Hoof and Horn Meal, Or Other Waste Products from Livestock Processing	A, N					Following application, uptake of such products by livestock does not form part of the animal's diet
Boric Acid		A, N		A, N		
Calcium (Dolomite, Gypsum, Lime)	A, N					Minerals and trace elements from natural sources - Shall not be chemically treated to promote water solubility.
Calcium Salts					A, N	
Charcoal					A, N	
Clay (eg. Bentonite, Kaolin, Attapulgite)	A, N			A, N	A, N	<b>Soil Fertilisation:</b> Minerals and trace elements from natural sources - Shall not be chemically treated to promote water solubility. <b>Livestock Pest and Disease:</b> no restrictions.
Compost	A, N					Produced in accordance with AS 4454 or recognised equivalent system.
Copper			A, N			<b>AS 6000:</b> Hydroxide is the preferred form, Bordeaux only on dormant tissue. Copper application shall be less than the rate of 8 kg/ha per annum. <b>National Standard:</b> Annual copper application must be less than 6 Kg/Ha/Annum on an average rolling basis - with a staged reduction strategy in place.
Copper Sulphate					A, N	
Diatomaceous Earth		A, N		A, N	A, N	
Epsom Salt (Magnesium Sulphate)	A, N			A, N	A, N	
Garlic - Oils, Extract. Crushed		A, N		A, N		
Granulose Virus Preparations			A, N			<b>National Standard:</b> Needs to be recognised by certification organisation.
Homeopathic Preparations		A, N	A, N	A, N	A, N	
Hydrogen Peroxide		A, N		A, N	A, N	
Iron (Iii) Phosphate		A, N				
Ligno Sulphonates	A, N					
Lime		A, N	A, N			
Lime-Sulphur			A, N			
Magnesium	A, N					Minerals and trace elements from natural sources - Shall not be chemically treated to promote water solubility
Methylated Spirits				A, N	A, N	

Substance	Soil Fert	Plant		Livestock		Restrictions / Notes
		Pest	Disease	Pest	Disease	
Microbiological, Biological And Botanical Preparations	A, N					Non-GMO
Mined Carbon-Based Products	A, N					Peat to be used for plant propagation only
Minerals and Trace Elements	A, N					From Natural Sources
Monosodium Fluorosilicate				A, N		
Natural Chelates	A, N					Not synthetic
Naturally Occurring Biological Organisms (e.g. worms) and their By-products	A, N					
Naturally Occurring Chitin Products		A, N			A, N	
Oils - Essential		A, N	A, N	A, N	A, N	
Oils - Mineral		A, N	A, N			Light mineral oils only
Oils - Plant		A, N	A, N	A, N	A, N	
Oils - Vegetable		A, N	A, N			
Paraffin		A, N	A, N			
Perlite	A, N					Potting/seedling mixes only
Pheromones		A, N				
Plant By-Products	A, N					From chemically untreated sources only
Plant Extracts		A, N	A, N	A, N	A, N	<b>AS6000:</b> Excluding tobacco and rotenone <b>National Standard:</b> Excluding tobacco. Obtained by infusion and made by the farmer without additional concentration
Potassium Bicarbonate		N	A			
Potassium Permanganate		A, N	A, N	A, N	A, N	
Potassium Soap (Soft Soap)			A, N			
Propolis			A, N			
Pyrethrum		A, N		A, N		<b>AS6000:</b> Extracted from natural sources only, without Piperonyl Butoxide <b>National Standard:</b> Extracted from <i>Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium</i>
Quassia		A, N		A, N		<b>AS6000:</b> Extracted from natural sources only <b>National Standard:</b> Extracted from <i>Quassia armara</i>
Rock phosphate, Phosphatic guano	A, N					Minerals and trace elements from natural sources - Shall not be chemically treated to promote water solubility
Rock Potash & sulphate potash	A, N					Minerals and trace elements from natural sources - Shall not be chemically treated to promote water solubility
Rotenone		N		A, N		<b>AS6000:</b> Extracted from natural sources only <b>National Standard:</b> Extracted from <i>Derris elliptica</i>
Ryania		A, N				<b>AS6000:</b> Extracted from natural sources only <b>National Standard:</b> Extracted from <i>Ryania speciosa</i>
Sawdust, Bark and Wood Waste	A, N					From chemically untreated sources only
Sea Salts and Salty Water		A, N	A, N	A, N	A, N	
Seaweed or algae preparations	A, N					

Substance	Soil Fert	Plant		Livestock		Restrictions / Notes
		Pest	Disease	Pest	Disease	
Seaweed, Seaweed Meal, Seaweed Extracts		A, N	A, N	A, N	A, N	
Skim Milk or Skim Milk Powder			A, N			
Sodium Bicarbonate		A, N	A, N	A, N	A, N	
Sodium Silicate (Water-Glass)			A, N			
Sterilized Insect Males		A, N				<b>AS6000:</b> Only where other controls are not available <b>National Standard:</b> Need to be recognised by the certification organisation and only where other controls are not available
Stone Meal		A, N				
Straw	A, N					From chemically untreated sources only
Sulphur	A, N	A	A, N	A, N	A	<b>AS6000:</b> From natural sources or from nature identical sources only when natural sources are not available <b>National Standard:</b> For <u>soil fertilisation</u> , minerals and trace elements from natural sources and must not be chemically treated to promote water solubility For <u>plant disease control</u> : In wettable or dry form only For <u>livestock pest control</u> : No restrictions
Trace Elements	A, N				A, N	<b>AS6000:</b> To correct identified deficiencies only <b>National Standard:</b> To correct identified deficiencies only
Vaccines					A, N	Only for a specific disease known to exist on the organic farm or neighbouring farms and which threatens livestock health and which cannot be effectively controlled by other management practices. Vaccines shall not contain GMO ingredients or by-products <b>AS6000:</b> As above, plus cannot contain nano technology ingredients or by-products
Vermiculite	A, N					For potting/seedling mixes only
Vinegar		A, N	A, N	A, N	A, N	
Vitamins					A, N	<b>AS6000:</b> Natural sources only. For animal welfare issues, when natural vitamins aren't available synthetic vitamins may be used <b>National Standards:</b> Natural sources only
Wood Ash	A, N					From chemically untreated sources only
Zeolites	A, N					
Zinc Sulphate					A, N	



## Step 3 – Submit it to SXC for Evaluation

If the product does not carry a certification mark, and you have been unable to identify the product or substance in the “Allowed Input Lookup Table”, then it will be necessary for SXC to assess the product to ensure it meets all of the various requirements of the standards.

To do this, you will need to send SXC as much information as you can, including (but not limited to) :

1. The name and manufacturer / supplier of the product, and a photo of the product, capturing an ingredients panel if at all possible.
2. The safety data sheet (SDS or MSDS) that goes with the product. In some cases, this sheet contains enough information for SXC to evaluate the product, however, this is not always the case, and SXC may need additional information.
3. Depending on the nature of the product, we may also need to understand how the product is made. For example, was it chemically synthesised, or was it simply mixed from naturally occurring ingredients?
4. We may also need declarations from the manufacturers that the ingredients do not come from GMO sources, have not been treated with prohibited substances and have not been irradiated.

To start the process off, please send us as much information as you can via email (our email address is listed on the front cover of this publication). If we require more, we'll be in touch.

**Please note that SXC does not charge SXC certified operators to evaluate inputs.**