



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach
B.4. Organics

Brussels,
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Subject: Plant oils in organic agriculture

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Thank you for your questions regarding use of plant oils in organic production and sorry for the delay in replying.

Costa Rica is a recognized third country for the purpose of equivalence in accordance with Article 33(2) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007¹ and listed in Annex III of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008². Therefore I recommend you to contact the Competent Authority in order to get the applicable equivalent rules on the use of plant oils in organic production in Costa Rica; in your case Servicio Fitosanitario del Estado, Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería (www.sfe.go.cr).

However, since you mention in your mail that you are input evaluator for different countries, please note that for those products imported from countries which are not recognized as equivalent in accordance with Article 33(2) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007; Control Bodies and Control Authorities recognised to carry out controls and certify organic products destined for the EU market through equivalence of standards and measures with Titles III, IV and V of

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 (OJ L 189, 20.07.2007, p. 1)

² Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 laying down detailed rules for implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as regards the arrangements for imports of organic products from third countries (OJ L 334, 12.12.2008, p. 25–52)

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Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 are listed in Annex IV of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008³.

As for your question concerning unrestricted use of approved plant oils, note that plant production rules are laid down in Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007. In particular, according to Article 12(1)(g) the prevention of damage caused by pests, diseases and weeds shall rely primarily on the protection by natural enemies, the choice of species and varieties, crop rotation, cultivation techniques and thermal processes.

Notwithstanding the above, according to Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 "**where plants cannot be adequately protected from pests and diseases by measures stated in Article 12(1)(a),(b),(c) and (g) of Commission Regulation 834/2007, only products referred to in Annex II to this Regulation may be used in organic production. Operators shall keep documentary evidence of the need to use the product.**"

Further, regarding your question as to which plant oils are allowed in organic agriculture; according to Annex II of Regulation 889/2008 only plant oils complying with the Commission Implementing Regulation 540/2011⁴ are allowed. You can use the Commission's online **pesticides database**⁵ (<http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/eu-pesticides-database/public/?event=activesubstance.selection&language=EN>) to find out which plant oils are authorised in the EU and for which uses. However please note that according to the restrictive conditions of use of organic production set out in the second column of Annex II of Regulation 889/2008 **plant oils are not authorised for use as an herbicide in organic production.**

Yours sincerely,



³ Commission Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 laying down detailed rules for implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as regards the arrangements for imports of organic products from third countries (OJ L 334, 12.12.2008, p. 25–52)

⁴ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 of 25 May 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the list of approved active substances (OJ L 153, 11.6.2011, p. 1–186)

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