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DF/05 Non-Organic Seed Derogation Instructions

DF/05 should be used for single varieties of seed, grass and forage seed mixes and for seed potatoes.

- Organic seeds **must** be used where available (*Welsh Organic Scheme Standards 1.49*). However, where no suitable/ appropriate organic alternative is available, **untreated** non-organic seed may be used with prior approval by QWFC.
- There are no grounds for a derogation to use non-organic seed for reasons of seed quality if the variety the producer wants to use is registered on the organic seed database.
- QWFC will require the reason for wanting to use non-organic seed before any purchase.
- Where grass and forage mixes are used,

Obtaining Approval

1. Check the organic seed database at www.organicxseeds.co.uk for availability of organic seed.
2. If the variety that you require is not available on the seed database and alternative varieties are not suitable then QWFC will consider a derogation application for non-organic untreated seed.

One of the following must be used as Justification for the application:

- (a) No Variety of the species required is registered on the UK organic seed database.
- (b) The seed supplier is unable to deliver the seed before sowing despite ordering the seed in reasonable time.
- (c) The variety required is not available on the database and it can be demonstrated that none of the registered alternatives of the same species are appropriate for the situation (***reasons for being inappropriate must be given***).
- (d1) For research purposes
- (d2) To test small scale field trials
- (d3) For variety conservation purposes
- (e) The seed is part of a grass or forage mix containing at least the minimum percentage of organic seed for the year (***70% in 2015***)

3. Seed Mixes:

- All grass and forage seed mixes must contain at least the minimum percentage of organic seeds for the year. **In 2015 the requirement is 70%**. QWFC may be contacted for the requirement in subsequent years.
- Producers requesting approval to use a grass or forage seed mix containing less than the required percentage of organic seeds must apply prior to purchase. Justification will be required for each non-organic variety used. Approval will only be given in exceptional circumstances.
- The minimum percentage approach only applies to grasses and forage mixes. These include grass clover mixes and unharvestable mixes. An unharvestable mix is defined as one not intended for harvesting

4. Potatoes:

Seed potatoes must be sourced organically. Approval for non-organic varieties may be given in exceptional circumstances. QWFC must be contacted to discuss requirements.