

2017 Sunset Crops Materials

NOSB has flagged the following substances listed below and is asking for additional information to help in the sunset review and decision process. A link to the NOSB summary of 2017 sunset materials is provided below along with the link to a survey that can be used to provide comment.

[NOSB crops sunset summary \(PDF\)](#)

205.601 – Synthetic Substances Allowed in Organic Crop Production

Chlorine Materials (calcium hypochlorite, chlorine dioxide, sodium hypochlorite):

- Are there less toxic disinfecting and sanitizing materials that could be practically substituted for chlorine materials in organic crop production?
- Are all three of these chlorine materials needed for use in organic crop production?
- [Chlorine Materials](#)

Hydrogen Peroxide

- The 2015 Technical Report indicates that Hydrogen Peroxide can be used for Fire Blight control as an alternative to antibiotics. If you grow apple and pears, will you use this substance for Fire Blight, and if not, why not?
- [Hydrogen Peroxide](#)

Soap-based algicide/demossers

- What alternative materials are available for use as an algicide/demossers?
- [Soap-based algicide/demossers](#)

Herbicides, soap-based

- Are soap-based herbicides needed or widely used on organic farms for farmstead maintenance or ornamental crops?
- What alternatives to soap-based herbicides are available for those uses?
- [Herbicides, soap-based](#)

Newspaper or other recycled paper (mulch and compost feedstock)

- To what extent have newspapers shifted to soy ink?
- What pigments are used in colored newspaper inks, and how does their toxicity compare with carbon black, the pigment used in black ink?
- Does the diversion of newspaper to mulch or compost significantly reduce the supply of recycled newsprint?
- [Mulch – Newspaper or other recycled paper, without glossy or colored inks](#)

Soaps, ammonium (animal repellent)

- Are ammonium soaps effective as animal repellents?
- What alternative animal repellants are available?
- [Soaps, ammonium](#)

Boric Acid

- Are there situations in which boric acid is the only, or safest, means of controlling the pest?
- [Boric acid](#)

Elemental Sulfur (Disease, insect, and soil amendment)

- Is this substance still used in crop production in all three categories? If not what has changed?
- Has the use of this substance increased or decreased during the current sunset cycle?
- What are the specific purpose(s) you use elemental sulfur in your organic crop production? Are there any viable non-synthetic or management alternatives, for any of your current uses for elemental sulfur that might be able to provide adequate control of the targeted pest or disease?
- [Elemental sulfur](#)

Lime Sulfur

- How has the removal of the two previously allowed antibiotics (for fireblight control) impacted/or will impact your use of Lime Sulfur? Do you now (or will you) use lime sulfur as part of your organic control of fire blight in your organic apple or pear production?
- Has the importance of lime sulfur in your organic farm system plan increased or decreased during the current sunset review cycle?
- In the December 3, 2014 Technical Review it mentions many alternatives to Lime Sulfur as possible substitutes: Have you tried any of these materials in your organic farming and how effective were they and for what use: insecticide or plant disease control?
- [Lime sulfur—including calcium polysulfide](#)

Horticultural Oils

- Is this substance still used in organic crop production in both listing categories? If not what has changed?
- Has there been any change in the use patterns or alternatives that would make the need for continued listing for Horticultural Oils un-necessary?
- Has the use of this substance increased or decreased during the current sunset cycle?
- [Oils, horticultural—narrow range oils as dormant, suffocating, and summer oils](#)

Insecticidal Soaps

- Has any information been published in the last 10 years regarding the effect of soap on beneficial insects?
- [Soaps, insecticidal](#)

Sticky Traps / Barriers

- Can/should the wide range of products covered by this listing be categorized by use and type of material?
- Are some uses of sticky traps incompatible with organic production?
- [Sticky traps/barriers](#)

Pheromones

- The newest Technical Review, March 27, 2102 mentions some points of concerns with the micro-encapsulated forms of pheromones: How many, if any forms of micro-encapsulated pheromones are used in organic crop production? What are the concerns in using these, if any exist (as stated in the TR)?
- Have the use of pheromones increased or decreased during the current sunset cycle?
- Have the ways that pheromones are used/or applied changed during the current sunset cycle? Is there specific new technology or potential application methods that have shown promise for use in organic crop production during this current sunset cycle?
- [Pheromones](#)

Coppers (Fixed) & Copper Sulfate

- For growers: Has the removal of the two previously allowed antibiotics (for fireblight control) impacted/or will impact your use of Copper? Has the importance of copper in your organic system plan increased or decreased during the current sunset review cycle?
- For growers: is testing for copper causing you to change your spray program in any way?
- For ACA's: Are you requiring testing? Have there been situations where copper is accumulating in soil such that non-compliances have been issued?
- [Coppers, fixed—copper hydroxide, copper oxide, copper oxychloride](#)
- [Copper sulfate](#)

Potassium Bicarbonate

- The newest TR dated January 22, 2015 lists a variety of possible alternative materials and practices that could potentially serve as possible replacements for Potassium Bicarbonate. Have you used any of these materials or methods in your organic farming and did they give you the desired result needed in your disease control program?
- Is Potassium Bicarbonate still needed in your organic farming operation? If so why?
- [Potassium bicarbonate](#)

Lignin sulfonate (both as flotation agent and as dust suppressant)

- Note that the Crops Subcommittee has received a petition to remove lignin sulfonate for use as a floating agent. Will removal of this material create disruption to your business?
- Lignin sulfonate is typically derived from the by-product in the spent liquor when pulped paper is chemically processed. It is soluble in water and can have negative impacts in aquatic ecosystems. Should use of lignin sulfonate be subject to documented monitoring of waste water in the OSP?
- [Lignin sulfonate—chelating agent, dust suppressant](#)

Magnesium sulfate

- Is non-synthetic magnesium sulfate available in the marketplace?
- [Magnesium sulfate](#)

Micronutrients (Boron & Others)

- Does the current annotation apply to today's practices and procedures?
- [Micronutrients – Soluble boron products, sulfates, carbonates, oxides, or silicates of zinc, copper,](#)

Liquid Fish Products

- Is the annotation sufficient for situations when fish is blended with other ingredients?
- [Liquid Fish Products](#)

Ethylene Gas

- Could certifiers or organic pineapple growers provide the Crops Subcommittee with information of current application techniques used in applying Ethylene for pineapple flower induction? Please supply for both for small scale and large scale producers.
- During the current Sunset cycle what alternative materials or practices have been looked at in organic operations? Have growers looked at any of those alternatives mentioned in the January 25, 2011 Supplemental Information Report to the NOSB and the Crops Subcommittee? If so please explain whether or not they could serve as possible alternative replacements to the current use of Ethylene for pineapple flower induction?
- Have small scale organic pineapple producers looked at the alternative application methods mentioned for ethylene gas that would make it more feasible for smaller sized operations? If so how did it impact organic pineapple production?
- [Plant growth regulators: Ethylene gas—for regulation of pineapple flowering.](#)

Sodium Silicate

- Are there any emerging practices (mechanical or physical) for pear or other tree fruit handling during the packing process that would be a reasonable alternative to using this “waterglass” material for a “wet dump”?
- If lignin sulfates are removed from the list, what impact would that have on your level of use of sodium silicate materials?
- [Floating agents in postharvest handling](#)

List 4 Inerts

- Commenters are urged to read the TR for NPEs linked here. Please comment on the suitability of the alternatives mentioned for specific types of generic product formulations in specific situations.
- Would removing NPEs from use with 2 years notice (from now) be sufficient time? How would this affect your business?
- [EPA Inert ingredients](#)

Microcrystalline Cheesewax

- Is soy wax nonsynthetic?
- Is soy wax sufficiently available to meet the needs of producers who grow organic mushrooms on logs?
- [Microcrystalline cheesewax - for use in log grown mushroom production.](#)