



Ensuring Upper Midwest
Organic Integrity Since 2002



MINNESOTA CROP IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION



We are proud to be a USDA National Organic Program (NOP) accredited certifier since 2002.

We are members of the Accredited Certifiers Association (ACA).

We are located in Minnesota and focus on the Upper Midwest.

For more information contact:

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Organic Certification Services

Local
Responsive
Committed to Service



Organic Crop Certification

Organic agriculture is a production system that seeks to promote the efficient cycling of resources, ecological health and the conservation of biodiversity, while also giving producers access to new markets.

Organic producers must develop practical management systems that help them respond to the specific conditions on their farms using integrated cultural, biological, and mechanical controls. This is not a one-size-fits-all approach, but requires producers to evaluate how best to manage their own acreages. Working to prevent pest and disease problems from occurring in the first place by building healthy and productive soils is the foundation of organic management.

Crop Rotation and Soil Quality

The organic standards require a crop rotation of annual and perennial cash and cover crops that maintain or improve soil organic matter content, provide for pest management, manage plant nutrients, and provide erosion control. Building soil organic matter can have many positive effects, such as improving water infiltration and soil structure as well as nutrient holding capacity and soil-borne disease suppression. Diverse sources of organic matter ensure a diverse soil biological community, which in turn ensures efficient nutrient cycling and a healthy crop.

Organic Crop Production

- All organic producers must create an Organic System Plan (OSP) and keep good records to document compliance with the regulations.
- For land to be eligible for certification no prohibited substances can have been applied for 36 months prior to harvest of the organic crop.
- Organic producers must use organic seed.
- Weeds, pests, and diseases must be managed through rotation, and cultural and mechanical practices. All inputs must be approved by your certifier prior to use.
- Genetically modified seed, irradiation and sewage sludge (biosolids) are not allowed.



Organic Wild Crop Harvest

The harvest of plants from sites not under agricultural management can be certified organic wild crop harvest. Examples are maple syrup, wild rice, dogwood or pussy willow branches and morel mushrooms. Certification verifies the harvest is sustainably managed.

Steps to Organic Certification

1. **Apply.** Contact MCIA Organic for an application packet or download the *Organic Certification Handbook* and application forms on-line at www.mc-iaorganic.org.
2. **Read and Submit.** Read the *Organic Certification Handbook* and when ready, submit the application and fees to MCIA. The application will become your Organic System Plan (OSP). Contact MCIA if you have any questions.
3. **Review.** MCIA Organic will review the application and may contact you for additional information.
4. **Inspection.** MCIA Organic will arrange for an inspector to schedule an on-site inspection. You or a person knowledgeable about your operation must be present. The inspector will complete an inspection report, which will be sent to MCIA and to you.
5. **Review.** MCIA Organic will review the inspection report to ensure compliance with the NOP standards. There may be additional questions for you or for the inspector.
6. **Certificate.** After all final issues are satisfied and all fees are paid, MCIA Organic will issue an Organic Certificate for the products grown or processed.