

Organic Certification

Organic System Planning and Standards for Cannabis Cultivation



ORGANIC CERTIFICATION – ORGANIC SYSTEM PLANNING AND STANDARDS FOR CANNABIS CULTIVATION

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Introduction to Organic Cannabis Certification

To become a certified organic grower may or may not be for your company. Certified organic cannabis is a tremendously fast-growing segment in the billion-dollar industry and looks into the long-term goals of cultivators and patients alike.

What is COSP?

Cannabis Organic System Planning (COSP) is a standard certification process for accurately reporting the systems and traceability standards in cannabis cultivation while adhering to the USDA's National Organic Program requirements. The National Organic Program is the federal regulatory framework in the United States of America governing organic agricultural products.

COSP cultivators choose to grow, process, and sell organic cannabis products that adhere to the strict standards. By ensuring that the products that are supposed to be medicine and used safely our risk of exposure to pesticides, antibiotics, and hormones. We support organic producers and consumers by advocating for organic and providing information and resources on organic cannabis products and throughout agriculture.

Introduction

As you further familiarize yourself to the COSP standards you will realize that becoming a certified organic cultivator may or may not be for your company and your agricultural system. Certified organic cannabis is a tremendously fast-growing segment in the billion-dollar industry and looks into the long-term goals of cultivators and patients alike. There are winners and losers in every agricultural endeavor and standards allow for consistent systems and accountability along the supply chain.

COSP allows for more transparency along the supply chain and creates forward and backward traceability from the cultivators for the consumer.

About The Instructor

Sage Howell has a B.S in Biology from Stephen F. Austin State University and holds a technical cultivation director for Comanche Compost Co., a materials and soil company. Sage is also an education advocate for Hemp Cultivation Science and has extensive experience in commercial greenhouse agriculture. With over a decade of experience with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), scientific and technical writing of Standard Operating Procedures for TexSelect Farms LLC, and Texas Hemp Cultivators he has paved the way for Texas farmers to cultivate hydroponic food at a commercial scale, and organic crops indoors and outdoors including cannabis.

He has successfully developed a seed to sale traceability program with commercial microgreen, herb, leafy green, and cannabis production on contract with companies like Syco, FreshPoint, HelloFresh, Purely CBD, and American Shaman.

His experience grew from agricultural third-party audits to compliance with the Texas Hemp Regulations allowing for standardized production of integrated pest management programs (IPM) and organic systems plans (OSP) that take into consideration every aspect of the commercial agricultural system being operated.

COSP Priorities

The Cannabis Organic System requires the application process to have sufficient time before certification is required to allow for the necessary inspection and review process. While in some providing up to twelve weeks is recommended. Expedited services are available. When the certification contract is sent over with payment the process can begin.

Certification Contract

- WHO YOUR COMPANY IS?
- SUMMARY OF YOUR COSP
- PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION
- LICENSE CONFIRMATION
 - TYPES
- IF YOU PROCESS
 - MANUFACTURER
 - COMMERCIAL
- AGREEMENT SIGNATURE & AFFIDAVIT

Operations Cultivation Summary

- WHERE YOUR OPERATIONS ARE LOCATED
- MATERIALS REVIEW
- IPM
- PRODUCTION OVERVIEW
- RECORD KEEPING

Harvest Processing

- POST-HARVEST HANDLING
- TRANSPORT
- STORAGE & PROCESSING

Certification Contract

The beginning process of the application starts with the Certification Contract. It will be your guide and be a review prior to the inspection process. It is recommended to give yourself up to 12 weeks prior to having an organic inspection at your facility.

To apply for Organic Certification, you will have to present the following

- Organic Certification Contract will consist of 6 pages
 - How have you heard about it? Referrals.
 - Company Information
 - Operation Summary
 - Contact Information
 - Certification Program Information
 - Cannabis Licensing and Registration
 - Annual Certification Fee Agreement
 - Signature and Payment Information
 - Addition Service Opportunities
 - USDA National Organic Program
 - Food Safety Services for Cannabis Farms

- Food Safety Training
- Non-Cannabis Food Farm Services

Cannabis Organic System Plan

Cultivator Forms

- Parcel Application
- Materials Application
 - Container, Greenhouse/Shadehouse Production
 - Seeds and Planting Stock
- Rotation & Soil Management
 - Compost and Manure
- Natural Resources
- Pest Management (IPM)
- Production
- Harvest & Transportation
 - Storage
 - On-Farm Post Harvesting Handling
- Labeling
- Record Keeping

Handler Forms

- Record Keeping for Handlers
- Product Application
- Partner Program
- Handler Affidavit

Cannabis Organic System Plan Cultivator Forms

Parcel Application

This form describes the area in which you are growing and where your licensed cultivation location is. You will want to describe each parcel you are going to utilize for organic cannabis production. This form will require a map with key and land history. You can add more acreage later by following add acreage instructions after your initial certification.

- a. Parcel Location & Cannabis
 - i. Name of Parcel
 - ii. Lot Numbers, Greenhouse Number
 - iii. Street Address, City, State, County, Country
 - iv. County Assessor's Parcel Number (APN)
 - v. Geographical coordinates, Lat/Long
 - vi. Expected Harvest Date MM/DD/YY
 - vii. Parcel Total Acreage
 - viii. Strains with COA from Breeder
 - ix. Production Method
 1. Inground or in container?
 - x. Are there existing installations of treated lumber?

1. If yes identify them on the map
- b. Adjacent Land Use and Buffer Zones
 - i. Describe all adjacent land use and buffer zones around the cultivation parcel

Introduction to Organic Cannabis Certification

What is this example?

- Example Model
 - Greenhouse Production
 - Traditional acreage in Production
 - Compost production
 - Restricted inputs
 - Postharvest operations
 - Irrigation

Section 1: General Farm Information

- Certification history
- Different kinds of certifications
- OMRI list of Materials used
- On-farm processing
- Directions to the farm

Section 2: Farm plan information

- Crop requested for certification
- Locations and field numbers
- Associated lot numbers & licensing
- Associated projected yields for crops

Section 3: Seeds and Seed treatments

- Organic seed requirement
- Source of seedlings and perennial seed stock
- Seedlings produced on-farm
- Associated projected yields for crops

Section 4: Source of seedlings & perennial seed stock

- Sorting seeds, seedlings, and planting stock
- On growing seedlings organically
- Seedlings produced on-farm
- Soil mix ingredients, pesticides, and other greenhouse inputs
- Split-production greenhouses: organic & conventional