

21—47.3(190C) Crops.

47.3(1) *Split operations.* Split operations shall be allowed. Segregation plans shall be developed and followed, and applicable logs shall be maintained for organic and nonorganic crops. The operation shall maintain, but not be limited to, the documents and logs addressing the following procedures: equipment cleaning, spraying, purging, separate storage and separate transportation. Appropriate physical facilities, machinery and management practices shall be established to prevent commingling of nonorganic and organic products or contamination by prohibited substances.

47.3(2) *Buffer zone.***a. *Requirements.***

(1) If crops are grown in a buffer zone, such crops shall not be labeled, sold or in any way represented as organic.

(2) Crops harvested from buffer zones shall be kept separate from organic crops, and appropriately designated storage areas shall be clearly identified and records maintained to sufficiently identify the disposition of nonorganic product.

b. *Recommendations.*

(1) A minimum of 25 feet is recommended as a buffer zone between certified organic crops and areas treated with prohibited substances.

(2) Planting windbreaks and hedgerows is encouraged to help reduce spray drift from neighboring farms and wind damage to crops.

(3) It is recommended that the producer notify neighbors, county roadside management officials, railroads, utility companies and other potential sources of contaminants. It is recommended that the producer provide such individuals with maps of organic production areas, request individuals not to spray adjacent areas, and request to be informed if prohibited materials are applied to land adjacent to organic production areas.

(4) Place “no-spray” or “organic farm” signs where appropriate, e.g., roadways and access areas.

47.3(3) *Drift.*

a. The party in control of the site shall notify the department’s organic program of suspected pesticide drift incidences onto certified organic land or land which is under consideration for organic certification. The department may require residue testing to make a determination regarding certification.

b. In the case of drift, the affected party may file a complaint under Iowa Code section 206.14 with the department’s pesticide bureau.

47.3(4) *Runoff and flooding.*

a. Records shall be kept regarding land that is subject to runoff or flooding.

b. The department may require testing to make a determination regarding certification.

47.3(5) *Rotations.* For the production of annual crops, rotations are required for soil improvement and disruption of weed, insect, disease and nematode cycles. A crop rotation including, but not limited to, sod, legumes or other nitrogen-fixing plants, and green manure crops shall be established.

a. *Annual agronomic crops (row crops and small grain crops).*

(1) Crops of the same species or family shall not be grown repeatedly without interruption on the same field or plot.

(2) Soil-building period. It is recommended that each field or plot be planted in and achieve a viable stand of a solid-seeded (non-row), soil-building legume crop or crop mixture that includes at least one legume species and that the field or plot be maintained a minimum of one year out of a five-year period. During this soil-building period, the producer may maintain the soil-building crop through the crop’s growing period to maturity or until the crop achieves its optimal soil-building characteristics. Soil-building crops may be used as winter cover or plow-down in fall. Some examples of soil-building practices include the following:

1. Plant and harvest a small grain crop with the solid-seeded crop mixture identified above; e.g., plant oats and alfalfa in the spring and harvest oats in the summer;

2. Maintain the solid-seeded crop mixture identified above for more than one season; e.g., alfalfa established in one season may be maintained and harvested for successive years if desired; or

3. Harvest the solid-seeded crop mixture identified above prior to its incorporation into the soil; e.g., harvest oats and alfalfa mixture in the summer prior to incorporation into the soil at a later time.

b. Annual horticultural crops (fruit, vegetable, and herb crops).

(1) Crops of the same species or family shall not be grown repeatedly without interruption on the same field or plot.

(2) Soil-building period. It is recommended that each field or plot be planted in and achieve a viable stand of a solid-seeded (non-row), soil-building legume crop or crop mixture that includes at least one legume species and that the field or plot be maintained a minimum of one year out of a five-year period. During this soil-building period, the producer may maintain the soil-building crop through the crop's growing period to maturity or until the crop achieves its optimal soil-building characteristics. Soil-building crops may be used as winter cover or plow-down in fall. Some examples of soil-building practices include the following:

1. Plant and harvest a small grain crop with the solid-seeded crop mixture identified above; e.g., plant oats and alfalfa in the spring and harvest oats in the summer;

2. Maintain the solid-seeded crop mixture identified above for more than one season; e.g., alfalfa established in one season may be maintained and harvested for successive years if desired; or

3. Harvest the solid-seeded crop mixture identified above prior to its incorporation into the soil; e.g., harvest oats and alfalfa mixture in the summer prior to incorporation into the soil at a later time.

(3) It is recommended that the producer make an effort to establish a rotation sequence where crops of the same species or family, e.g., Solanaceae family: tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, and eggplant, are not planted in the same field or plot in consecutive years.

c. Perennials. Perennial systems shall include a plan for biodiversity in the system and a soil-building program, including the use of cover crops, mulches, grass cover and a soil-building legume crop mixture.

(1) It is strongly recommended that, at the end of a perennial crop life cycle that exceeds four years, the field or plot be planted in a solid-seeded (non-row) soil-building legume crop or crop mixture which includes at least one legume species, achieves a viable stand, and is maintained for a minimum of one year prior to planting another perennial crop.

(2) Replacement of individual plants within a perennial crop stand is permissible.

(3) Rescinded IAB 10/29/03, effective 12/3/03.

d. Crop rotation variance. Rescinded IAB 10/29/03, effective 12/3/03.