



## Georgia Crop Improvement Association Organic Certification Program

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### Hydroponics and/or Aquaponics (addendum to be included with Organic System Plan)

*Hydroponics NOP 205.2, .200, .105, .201, .272*

The National Organic Program Standards define organic production as a production system that is managed in accordance with all applicable standards to respond to site-specific conditions by integrating cultural, biological and mechanical practices that promote ecological balance, foster cycling of resources and conserve biodiversity. Hydroponic production and handling must meet the requirements of the NOP Standards.

Operation: \_\_\_\_\_ Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you grow plants in a liquid nutrient solution (including through aquaponic production)? If NO, skip to the Aquaponic Section (page 3) Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

2. If YES, list all types of plants grown hydroponically.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What system type(s) are used for hydroponic production? Check all that apply.

aeroponic \_\_\_ aquaponic \_\_\_ bioponic \_\_\_ drip \_\_\_ flood & drain \_\_\_  
noncirculating water culture \_\_\_ nutrient film technique \_\_\_ wick \_\_\_ other \_\_\_

4. If OTHER, please explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What are containers made of?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Could the containers or their sealant pose a threat to organic integrity (such as through contamination from prior nonorganic use or leaching of prohibited substances)? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

7. How do you ensure that organic integrity is maintained?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Is a medium used in your hydroponic system? *List all inputs on the Greenhouse Materials Input Inventory.*  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

9. If YES, indicate medium type. Check all that apply.  
perlite \_\_\_ gravel \_\_\_ vermiculite \_\_\_ clay \_\_\_ coconut fiber \_\_\_  
composted bark \_\_\_ sand \_\_\_ rockwool \_\_\_ other \_\_\_

10. If OTHER, please explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. What are the components / ingredients of the nutrient solution? *List all inputs on the Greenhouse Materials Input Inventory.*

12. How often does the nutrient solution contact plant roots? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Explain your nutrient refreshing/renewal procedures. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. How do you ensure that the disposal of waste does not contribute to environmental contamination?  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. What is the nutrient solution temperature range and how is controlled? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. How do you monitor nutrient balance? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

17. What is the light source for hydroponic production?  
natural light \_\_\_ artificial light \_\_\_ other \_\_\_

18. If OTHER or ARTIFICIAL, please describe.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

19. Describe any other methods used to aid plants in hydroponic production (examples: CO2 enhancement, humidity / climate control, pollination techniques).  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Aquaponics*

Aquaponic production is the production of plants using water that has been used to cultivate fish and other aquatic life. Fish cannot be certified to the NOP Standards at this time. GCI A does NOT certify fish, but plants grown aquaponically can be certified if the production is in compliance with the NOP Standards.

20. Do you grow plants via aquaponic production? If NO, skip to the last question (#29) to complete.  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

21. Describe the location of fish and plants and how nutrients flow through system. Submit a facility map detailing the aquaponic system. All components should be clearly labeled and described (such as pumps, filters, tanks, settling basins). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

22. Are water additives used? *List all inputs on the Greenhouse Materials Input Inventory.*  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

23. Describe how you prevent fish manure solids from coming in contact with the edible portion of organic plants produced. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

24. How was the bacterial population established in the aquaponic system? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

25. How do you monitor and prevent bacterial / microbial contamination of the organic product ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

26. How do you monitor and adjust the pH of the nutrient solution? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

27. Do edible plant parts come in contact with the nutrient solution?  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

28. If YES, describe in detail. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

29. Have you included the Greenhouse Materials Input Inventory and other supporting documentation with the OSP? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_