



**GCIA Organic E-News**

*December 2020*

GCIA certified organic clients,

Please see the email below and attached from the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) regarding the stop use notice for the product AGRO GOLD WS issued by the California Department of Agriculture. Any operation using AGRO GOLD WS should evaluate whether they need to update their OSP to reflect the discontinued use of this product. Should you have any questions, please contact us at 706-542-2351.

Thank you,

Billy Skaggs  
Certification Program Manager  
Georgia Crop Improvement Association  
2425 South Milledge Avenue  
Athens, Georgia 30605  
706-542-2351  
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From: John Reid <[John.Reid@usda.gov](mailto:John.Reid@usda.gov)>

Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 4:29 PM

Subject: Stop Use Notice in California due to Prohibited Substances in AGRO GOLD WS

Dear Accredited Organic Certifiers:

Today, December 4, 2020, the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP) issued a statewide quarantine and stop use notice for the product AGRO GOLD WS. The product AGRO GOLD WS has been distributed within a co-packed box that also contains the product WEED SLAYER, an herbicide also listed as approved for use in organic agriculture. The USDA National Organic Program (NOP) requests your immediate review of the attached Stop Use Notice, which was sent today to all registered organic operations in the State of California.

The product AGRO GOLD WS has been found to contain both Diquat and Glyphosate, both of which are prohibited substances under the USDA organic regulations at 7 CFR §205.105: Allowed and prohibited substances, methods, and ingredients in organic production and handling. California operations have been instructed to discontinue the use of Agro Gold WS on land registered as organic immediately.

Those producers have also been instructed to contact their certifying agents to notify you of any changes they need to make to remove AGRO GOLD WS from their organic system plan (OSP).

Certifiers must now contact any certified organic operations or certification applicants outside of California who have listed AGRO GOLD WS on their OSP. You may forward the attached notification to those operations. While the reported evidence here relates to AGRO GOLD WS products found in the State of California, operations in other States should review their use of these products to ensure that they comply with 7 CFR §205.105.

Any operation using AGRO GOLD WS should evaluate whether they need to update their OSP to reflect the discontinued use of this product. Operations should direct any OSP or compliance questions to their accredited certifier.

For additional questions about the CDFA Stop Use notice, you can contact the California State Organic Program at [CDFA\\_Organic@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:CDFA_Organic@cdfa.ca.gov). For general questions, please contact your Accreditation Manager.

Sincerely,

Robert Yang  
Director, Accreditation Division  
USDA National Organic Program

Attachments:

1. STOP USE NOTICE: ORGANIC INPUT MATERIAL AGRO GOLD WS
2. NOTICE: STATEWIDE QUARANTINE & REMOVAL FROM SALE ORDER

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### ***Organic E-News***

To view past editions of Organic E-News, you will find them archived [HERE](#). If you have suggestions or comments regarding E-News, please let us know. Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact our organic staff at the office (706-542-2351) or via email:

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Please be sure to visit the [GCIA Organic Program website](#) for additional resources.