Georgia Crop Improvement Association Organic Certification Program
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Hydroponics and/or Aquaponics (addendum to be included with Organic System Plan)

PLEASE NOTE: All documents submitted must be typed. Hand written documents will not be accepted.

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?_____

_____

16A. How do you monitor nutrient balance? Describe how your monitoring system addresses NOP CFR 205105(b) and NOP Notice 12-1._____

16B. How would you OR do you plan to dispose of water that contains high nitrate levels?

17. What is the light source for hydroponic production? natural ☐ artificial ☐ 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. GCIA 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 ☐