

# RI Organic Certification Program

## **Allowed, Restricted and Prohibited Substances**

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) advises the US Secretary of Agriculture in determining which substances are allowed, allowed with restrictions or prohibited for use in organic operations. This section of the National Organic Standards is the National List. Organic farmers are generally limited to using non-synthetic fertilizers and pest control materials on their farms. The National List contains several approved synthetic substances as well as some prohibited non-synthetic substances.

The RI DEM Division of Agriculture determines whether materials are allowed for use according to the National List. All materials planned for use must be approved by the Division and must be listed on the operation's organic farm plan or handling plan, which must be approved prior to implementation. Compliant materials may be requested for approval following a review of ingredients. Materials may be prohibited because of prohibited active or inert ingredients or their process of manufacture, which may or may not be listed on the product label. Some approved materials may be allowed with restrictions. Therefore it is important that operators only use materials as approved on their organic plan to avoid accidental use of a non-approved material, which could lead to land losing its organic status and becoming ineligible for organic certification for three years.