

**Formal Recommendation by the
National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
to the National Organic Program (NOP)**

Date: April 29, 2011

Subject: Sunset 2012: 205.601(b) (2) (i) Newspaper or other recycled paper, without glossy or colored inks.

Chair: Tracy Miedema

The NOSB hereby recommends to the NOP the following:

Rulemaking Action X
Guidance Statement
Other

Statement of the Recommendation (Including Recount of Vote):

The Board's recommendation is to re-list newspaper or other recycled paper, without glossy or colored inks as a synthetic substance allowed for use in organic crop production in 205.601(b)(2)(i).

Rationale Supporting Recommendation (including consistency with OFPA and NOP):

The requested TR was not available for the Crops Committee or the Board in arriving at their decision. Although there are many alternatives to the use of newspapers as mulch, it is relatively cheap and effective and the known adverse effects are minimal. No comments adverse to re-listing were received.

NOSB Vote:

Moved: John Foster		Second: Barry Flamm		
Yes: 14	No: 0	Abstain: 0	Absent: 0	Recusal: 0

**National Organic Standards Board
Crops Committee
Sunset 2012 Proposed Recommendations
Newspaper**

April 29, 2011

List § 205.601 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic crop production

- (b) As herbicides, weed barriers, as applicable
 - (2) mulches
 - (i) Newspaper or other recycled paper, without glossy or colored inks

Committee summary

Although there are many alternatives to the use of newspapers as mulch, they are relatively cheap, biodegradable, and effective and the known adverse effects are minimal. When the requested technical report is received, the Crops Committee may reconsider its decision.

Committee Recommendation

Relist newspaper or other recycled paper, without glossy or colored inks on § 205.601(b).

Committee Vote

Motion by: Barry Flamm Second: Tina Ellor
Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 1 Abstain: 0 Recuse: 0