

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

**Date:** April 29, 2011

**Subject:** Sunset listing of Magnesium Sulfate on 205.601 (J) as plant or soil amendments (5) Magnesium sulfate—allowed with a documented soil deficiency.

**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 recommends the relisting of magnesium sulfate on 205.601 as a plant or soil amendment by a vote of 13 in favor and 1 against.

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

The Crops Committee requested and received a new Technical Report on this material. The CC did not find the TR to be sufficient and has sent it back with questions addressing the differences in natural and synthetic magnesium sulfate, availability of both, and both form's functionality as soil amendments and foliar sprays. The majority of the CC felt that having the synthetic form of magnesium sulfate on the National list was inconsistent with organic crop production. The minority voted to keep this material on the list pending further technical review because of its long use and historic acceptance for use in organic crop production. Based on public comment about the unavailability of magnesium sulfate in its non-synthetic form, the board voted to keep this material on the National List 205.601 Synthetic Substances Allowed for use in Organic Crop Production.

**NOSB Vote:**

<b>Moved:</b> John Foster		<b>Second:</b> Tina Ellor		
<b>Yes:</b> 13	<b>No:</b> 1	<b>Abstain:</b> 0	<b>Absent:</b> 0	<b>Recusal:</b> 0

**National Organic Standards Board  
Crops Committee  
2012 Sunset Proposed Recommendation  
Magnesium Sulfate**

**April 29, 2011**

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

- (j) As plant or soil amendments.
  - (5) Magnesium sulfate—allowed with a documented soil deficiency.

**Committee Summary**

The Crops Committee requested and received a new Technical Report on this material. The CC did not find the TR to be sufficient and has sent it back with questions addressing the differences in natural and synthetic magnesium sulfate, availability of both, and both form's functionality as soil amendments and foliar sprays. The majority of the CC felt that having the synthetic form of magnesium sulfate on the National list was inconsistent with organic crop production. The minority voted to keep this material on the list pending further technical review because of its long use and historic acceptance for use in organic crop production.

The Crops Committee considered new public comment in reviewing this material.

**Committee Recommendations**

The Crops Committee recommends the continued listing of Magnesium sulfate—allowed with a documented soil deficiency as a soil amendment. The motion was to continue the listing of magnesium sulfate—allowed with a documented soil deficiency as a plant or soil amendment.

**Committee Vote**

Motion: To relist magnesium sulfate on § 205.601

Motion by: John Foster      Second: Nick Maravell

Yes: 7      No: 0      Absent: 0      Abstain: 0      Recuse: 0