

Organic Seed Database

Introduction

The general principle of producing organic food requires that seed and vegetative propagating material produced by the organic production method be used.

Due to the unavailability of certain seeds within the European Union, it may be possible to use seed and vegetative propagating material not produced by the organic production method.

In Ireland three private inspection bodies (i.e. IMO Ltd, Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association and Organic Trust Ltd) must give the producer permission to use seed and vegetative propagating material that has not been produced by the organic production method. Producers should ensure that the prior approval of the inspection body is obtained before using such seeds.

A database has been developed for users to show the seed and vegetative propagating material that is registered and available here in Ireland.

Searching the database

In order to search the database, the following instructions should be followed:

The database is available on the website of the Department of Agriculture and Food

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/crops/seedcertification/organicseeddatabase/>

1) Under the banner at the top of the screen there are four options that the user can select:

- a) Arable & Forage Crops**
- b) Horticultural Crops**
- c) Others**
- d) News and Information**

2) Place the mouse of your computer on the option you wish to select and left click. Please wait a few moments until the option has a white surround. The remaining three options will have yellow surrounds.

The user can select another option by repeating the instructions in the previous paragraph.

3) If the user wishes to look up details on options a, b or c above, they should click on the appropriate tab (as outlined in 3 above) and then concentrate on the left hand side of the screen proceeding as follows:

- ❖ Using the drop down menu please select a crop group

- ❖ Similarly a species and the various other options available should then be selected
- ❖ At the end of this section there are then two options available to the user

- I. **Search**: Based on the information entered, the user left clicks the mouse of their computer and a search of the database is undertaken to establish whether seed is available based on the information entered. The default is today's date but an earlier date can be entered using the same format (xx-xx-xxxx).

If an invalid date is entered the following message appears and products available for today will be displayed:

“Date not valid. Information displayed below is for today”

If a date in the future is entered the following message will be displayed:

“Can't show data for dates in the future!”

- II. **General Derogations**: By left clicking the computer mouse, this option may provide the user with a list of general derogations on a particular crop. In other words where seed for a particular species is not available, selecting this option may highlight to the user that no seed products are available for this species.

An application to seek a derogation should then be submitted to the inspection body. General derogations do not exist for crop varieties.

- 4) Where the user finds that a seed is not available he/she may then make an application to their inspection body for a derogation to use un-treated non-organic seed. An application form is available that may be used.