# Application to use non-organic seed

This form should be used for single varieties of seed, grass/forage seed mixes, seed potatoes and other planting material. Please read the guidance overleaf and the notes below when completing the form.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Farm name |  | | | Licence number |  |
| Supplier of grass/forage seed mix |  | Percentage of organic seed used on  your holding |  | Percentage  of organic seed in mix |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Crop** | **Variety**1 | **Seed quantity**  (kg/no)2 | **Reason for request**3 | **Justification for use of non-organic seed**4 | **Proposed planting date** |
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**Notes**

1All non-organic varieties that require approval must be listed. For a grass/forage seed mix, please list the non-organic varieties in the mix and confirm the percentage of organic content in the top right corner.

2Please specify whether the figure entered here refers to kilograms, grams or number of seeds.

3You must choose from reasons (a) to (e) as listed on the front of the form.

4You must give further details here unless you have requested reasons (a) or (e).

**For help completing the form, please call the producer certification team on 0117 914 2412.**

**Guidance on applying to use non-organic seed**

The current EU regulation (EC 889/2008) states that organic seeds must be used in preference to non-organic seeds. Non-organic seed use is only permitted where an organic alternative is not available.

If you wish to use non-organic seed, you will need to confirm your reasons for doing so and await our approval before making any purchases. Failure to do this may lead to the organic status of the crop being lost.

You can also submit your application online. Visit www.organicXseeds.co.uk for further details.

**Getting approval**

1. To check the current availability of organic seeds, please contact the producer team on 0117 914 2412 or visit [www.organicXseeds.co.uk](http://www.organicXseeds.co.uk)
2. **Single-seed varieties**

If organic seed is not available for the variety you require and alternative varieties of the same crop are not suitable,we can consider your request to use non-organic seed, depending on the justification given. Approval will be required for home-saved, non-organic seed.

**3. Reasons for permission request** (you will need to pick one from the list below)

1. No varieties of the crop that I want to grow are registered in the UK organic seed database**.**
2. The seed supplier is unable to deliver the seed before sowing despite ordering the seed in reasonable time.
3. The variety that I want to use is not available organically and I can demonstrate that none of the organically available varieties are suitable for my production (you must give the reasons why they are not suitable in the justification box 4).
4. Research purposes:

* To test in small-scale field trials
* For variety conservation.

(e) The seed is part of a grass/clover or other forage mix.

1. **Grass/clover** **and forage mixes**

Where the mix is 70% organic or more, permission can be obtained after purchase. Permission for mixes of less than 70% will only be given in exceptional

circumstances. These mixes cannot be combine-harvested unless 100% organic seed has been used or permission granted prior to purchase.

1. **We can no longer approve the use of treated seed**

This is due to a change in EU regulations.

1. You must obtain confirmation of approval from SA Certification before purchasing any non-organic seed (except with 70% organic grass/clover and other forage mixes). If your request is urgent please email the form to prod.cert@soilassociation.org or fax it to 0117 314 5046 and call the office for a response.
2. Please complete this form accurately.We are unable to process incomplete forms.

**The Soil Association seed working groups give licensees the opportunity to put forward their views and concerns.**

**Please contact us if you would like to find out more.**