



## **Seeds and Propagating material in Organic Farming according to the EC-Regulation 2092/91**

### **1. The regulation**

According to article 6 and 6a of the EC regulation 2092/91 as amended, seeds, vegetative propagating material, and seedlings must originate from organic agriculture. This requires that mother plants in the case of seeds and parent plants in the case of vegetative propagating material must be produced under the organic farming method, for at least one generation if annual crops and for at least two growing seasons if perennial crops. A generation lasts from sowing to harvest, a vegetation period is the time of year with sufficiently warm weather for plant growth.

Seeds, vegetative propagating material and seedlings cannot be genetically modified nor can any product derived from those be used.

### **2. Availability of organic seeds and vegetative propagating material**

Derogation for the above mentioned regulation is possible during a transitional period, which expires 31 December 2003. If growers are unable to obtain seeds or vegetative material of the desired variety and sufficient proof of the lack of availability is given to the inspection body or the competent authorities of the member state of the EC, conventional seeds and propagating material may be used (art. 6(3)a). In this case seeds and propagating material must be used which have not been treated with any material other than those listed in Annex II A or B, if available on the relevant market. If non-treated material is unavailable and proof is given there of, treated seeds or propagating material may be used until 31. December 2003.

### **3. Availability of organic seedlings**

A transition period during which the purchase and use of non-organic plants and seedlings was allowed, expired with the end of 1997. Derogation can no longer be granted. In case non-organic plants and seedling are used in organic farming, the respective crops cannot be labelled as organic but must be sold as conventional produce.

### **4. Categories of reproduction material**

Some examples are given for the application of the EC regulation on different types of reproduction material. The list is by no means complete.

- seeds (mother plants organically grown for **one generation**): cereals, pulses, fennel, vegetable seeds, perennial herbs, feedstuff, cotton...
- vegetative propagating material of annual crops (parent plants organically grown for **one generation**): potatoes, garlic, ginger,...
- vegetative material of perennial crops (parent plants organic for **two growing seasons**): fruit bushes and trees, strawberries, asparagus, perennial herbs, grapes, bananas, pineapples, vanilla, sugar cane...
- seedlings (organically grown): tomatoes, lettuce, melons, rice, several annual herbs...