

## *Protected cropping and the existing standards*

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*Growing with you...*

# Rotations

## Cropping without rotations

### 5.1.14

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When you cannot produce crops within a rotation your methods of nutrient supply, weed, pest and disease control must still comply with sections 4.6–4.11. Below are the main examples of such production systems:

- protected cropping (this includes mono-cropping or annual cropping of the same genus, though **not** alliums, potatoes or brassicas)

Notes:

Tomatoes, peppers and aubergines all belong to the Solanaceae family; diseases such as *Verticillium* are common to these and Curcurbits.

It is also possible to use grafted plants

# *Soil*

- In Denmark, Sweden and Finland growing in bags or containers is permitted; no conversion period
- What is the definition of 'soil'?
- Mushrooms
- Pot Herbs
- Equivalence

# *Crop Nutrition*

- Proposal to limit N input to 600kg N/ha/yr
- Liquid feeds
- Imported fertility

# *CO<sub>2</sub> Enrichment*

- Is it acceptable to enrich/prevent depletion?
- How should the CO<sub>2</sub> be produced?

# *Soil Sterilization*

- Blunt instrument at best
  - Use of resistant rootstocks
- (For more info see latest *Organic Grower*)

## **4.11.13 | Revised**

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With our approval, you may use the following products only if there is a major threat to your crops. We can give you approval either on a case-by-case basis or through a plan, provided we have details of why you need to use it and under what circumstances:

- Azadirachtin extracted from *Azadirachta indica* (neem tree)
- lime sulphur (calcium polysulphide)
- steam sterilisation or pasteurisation of soils, but only in protected structures
- fatty acid potassium soap (soft soap), and
- sulphur.

Note – we will give approval to use steam only as a one-off practice to combat a particular problem.

Note – we are monitoring the use of soft soap and sulphur.

# *Climate change & energy use*

- Life-cycle analysis
- How to measure?
- Waste heat & CHP; unheated crops

# *Water Use*

## **4.16 Managing water**

### **4.16.1**

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We will introduce these water management standards in three steps over the following timescale, reviewing each step before moving onto the next:

Step 1: As guidelines (not obligatory) from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2009 ►

For new structures, water management is included in planning regulations



# *Buildings*

- Not covered in existing standards
- Poorly-sited polytunnels

## *Next Steps*

- First draft of Soil Association 'Green Paper' in progress.
- Wide consultation planned for April
- EU Commission is planning a review of protected cropping in 2010

# *Soil Association Consultation*

- Grower licensees
- Grower groups & associations
- Packers
- Retailers
- Trade bodies
- Environmental groups
- Growers thinking about conversion
- Anyone else who wants to have an input