

**NOSB NATIONAL LIST
FILE CHECKLIST**

CROPS

MATERIAL NAME: #5 Fruit waxes



NOSB Database Form



References



MSDS (or equivalent)



**TAP Reviews from: Paul Sachs, Diana Tracy,
Joe Montecalvo, John
Clark**

**NOSB/NATIONAL LIST
COMMENT FORM
CROPS**

Material Name: #5 Fruit waxes

Please use this page to write down comments, questions, and your anticipated vote(s).

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

1. In my opinion, this material is:
_____ Synthetic _____ Non-synthetic.

2. This material should be placed on the proposed National List as:
_____ Prohibited Natural _____ Allowed Synthetic.

TAP REVIEWER COMMENT FORM for USDA/NOSB

Use this page or an equivalent to write down comments and summarize your evaluation regarding the data presented in the file of this potential National List material. Complete both sides of page. Attach additional sheets if you wish.

This file is due back to us by: Aug. 5, 1996

Name of Material: Fruit Waxes

Reviewer Name: John Clark RECEIVED JUL 25 1996

Is this substance Synthetic or non-synthetic? Explain (if appropriate)

If synthetic, how is the material made? (please answer here if our database form is blank)

This material should be added to the National List as:

Synthetic Allowed Prohibited Natural

or, Non-synthetic (This material does not belong on National List)

Are there any use restrictions or limitations that should be placed on this material on the National List?

Please comment on the accuracy of the information in the file:

Any additional comments? (attachments welcomed)

It is not possible to do a proper review of "Fruit Waxes". Specific substances must be addressed separately. There are already challenges to these substances in New Hampshire. Totally inappropriate for "organic" to embrace these as a class.

Do you have a commercial interest in this material? Yes; No

Signature John B. Clark Date 7-17-96

Letters Editor,
The New York Times et al

July 10, 1996

I was asked to speak at an anti-GATT press conference in Concord (N.H. state capital) November 29, 1994. Also speaking was Mike Hammond (Republican candidate for Congress this year), who said the attorney general's office was busy identifying state laws "incompatible" with GATT (before GATT was even passed; see sidebar).

This was confirmed by N.H. Attorney General Jeffrey Howard when I questioned him on N.H. Public Radio recently. All 50 states have done the same, per Howard. The intent is to "harmonize" our laws with GATT.

This explains why Citizen Petition's effort last year in the N.H. legislature, to reinstate our waxed produce signs in New Hampshire stores, was targeted for defeat by attachment of bogus fiscal notes.

Our signs listing wax ingredients are due protection under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It's incredible, and terrifying, that multi-national corporations have dominion over our laws. The waxed produce labeling law enforced for two and a half years in New Hampshire (see story, front page, National Sunday Edition, The New York Times, May 1, 1994) has been canceled by GATT.

Sidebar: Bob Dole said on "Meet the Press" November 27, 1994, he had the votes to pass GATT. Asked about Kansans who protested he'd sold them out; and Nader, Buchanan, Perot and other critics of GATT, he smiled and said, they're not voting, I am, "GATT can't override American laws."

Well, it's happened, Bob. Did you really not know it would?

Mary Roy,
Citizen Petition
34 Nathan Lord Rd.
Amherst NH 03031 (603) 673-7849

TAP REVIEWER COMMENT FORM for USDA/NOSB

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This file is due back to us by: Aug. 5, 1996

Name of Material: Fruit Waxes

Reviewer Name: Diana Tracy RECEIVED AUG 05 1996

Is this substance Synthetic or non-synthetic? Explain (if appropriate)

If synthetic, how is the material made? (please answer here if our database form is blank)

This material should be added to the National List as:

Synthetic Allowed Prohibited Natural

or, Non-synthetic (This material does not belong on National List)

allowed natural

Are there any use restrictions or limitations that should be placed on this material on the National List? WAXES MADE FROM OR CONTAINING PETROLEUM DISTILLATES ARE PROHIBITED. MAY NOT CONTAIN ANY SYNTHETIC SUBSTANCES. ALLOWED MATERIALS - CARANUBA, WOOD-EXTRACTED WAXES, LAC RESINS, ALCOHOL, IF FROM FERMENTATION. WAXED FRUIT MUST BE INDICATED ON SHIPPING CONTAINER.

Any additional comments? (attachments welcomed)

PROCESSING AND - A VARIETY OF COMPATIBLE PRODUCTS ARE ON THE MARKET - IF WAXES ARE MADE FROM NATURAL MATERIALS, AND PRODUCT IS MARKED AS SUCH, THEY SHOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH ORGANIC AGRICULTURE.

Do you have a commercial interest in this material? Yes; No

Signature Diana Tracy Date 7/24/96

**Please address the 7 criteria in the Organic Foods Production Act:
(comment in those areas you feel are applicable)**

- (1) the potential of such substances for detrimental chemical interactions with other materials used in organic farming systems;

LOW

- (2) the toxicity and mode of action of the substance and of its breakdown products or any contaminants, and their persistence and areas of concentration in the environment;

LOW -

- (3) the probability of environmental contamination during manufacture, use, misuse or disposal of such substance;

LOW

- (4) the effect of the substance on human health;

MINIMAL

- (5) the effects of the substance on biological and chemical interactions in the agroecosystem, including the physiological effects of the substance on soil organisms (including the salt index and solubility of the soil), crops and livestock;

LOW

- (6) the alternatives to using the substance in terms of practices or other available materials; and

NONE

- (7) its compatibility with a system of sustainable agriculture.

MODERATE

NOSB Materials Database

1

Identification

Common Name **Fruit Waxes** Chemical Name
Other Names
Code #: CAS Code #: Other
N. L. Category **Prohibited Natural** MSDS yes no

Chemistry

Family
Composition
Properties
How Made

Use/Action

Type of Use ~~Crops~~ *processing aid*
Specific Use(s) Waxes are used to improve appearance, reduce dehydration, control spoilage organisms, and extend storage life.
Action
Combinations

Status

OFPA
N. L. Restriction
EPA, FDA, etc
Directions
Safety Guidelines
Historical status
International status

NOSB Materials Database

OFPA Criteria

2

2119(m)1: chemical interactions

LOW

2119(m)2: toxicity & persistence

LOW

2119(m)3: manufacture & disposal consequences

LOW

2119(m)4: effect on human health

LOW

2119(m)5: agroecosystem biology LOW

2119(m)6: alternatives to substance

NONE

2119(m)7: Is it compatible?

YES

References

See enclosed.

LABELS, OF SEVERAL COMPATIBLE WAX PRODUCTS
CCOF/ORE TILTH MATERIALS COMMITTEE NOTE)

TAP REVIEWER COMMENT FORM for USDA/NOSB

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This file is due back to us by: Aug. 5, 1996

Name of Material: Fruit Waxes

Reviewer Name: JOE MONTECALVO RECEIVED AUG 05 1996

Is this substance Synthetic or non-synthetic? Explain (if appropriate)

Synthetic

If synthetic, how is the material made? (please answer here if our database form is blank) Solvent extraction from plant tissues.

This material should be added to the National List as:

Synthetic Allowed Prohibited Natural

or, Non-synthetic (This material does not belong on National List)

Are there any use restrictions or limitations that should be placed on this material on the National List?

I don't feel that it is absolutely necessary to list WAXES on the NLR.

Please comment on the accuracy of the information in the file:

Very little info is available.

Any additional comments? (attachments welcomed)

Do you have a commercial interest in this material? Yes; No

Signature Dr. Joe Montecalvo Date 7/29/96

Please address the 7 criteria in the Organic Foods Production Act:
(comment in those areas you feel are applicable)

- (1) the potential of such substances for detrimental chemical interactions with other materials used in organic farming systems;

None

- (2) the toxicity and mode of action of the substance and of its breakdown products or any contaminants, and their persistence and areas of concentration in the environment;

NONE

- (3) the probability of environmental contamination during manufacture, use, misuse or disposal of such substance;

None

- (4) the effect of the substance on human health;

NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE

- (5) the effects of the substance on biological and chemical interactions in the agroecosystem, including the physiological effects of the substance on soil organisms (including the salt index and solubility of the soil), crops and livestock;

None

- (6) the alternatives to using the substance in terms of practices or other available materials; and

Almost better packaging, SAME effect can be obtained with packaging materials

- (7) its compatibility with a system of sustainable agriculture.

Possible

NOSB Materials Database

1

Identification

Common Name Fruit Waxes **Chemical Name**
Other Names
Code #: CAS **Code #: Other**
N. L. Category Prohibited Natural **MSDS** yes no

Chemistry

Family
Composition An ester of a long chain fatty acid and a monohydric or dihydric alcohol. A plant wax is harder than fat. Also, a substance secreted by bees related to cerin - in the comb.
Properties
How Made - CARNAUBA IS EXTRACTED FROM PALM LEAF BY SOLVENT EXTRACTION

Use/Action

Type of Use Crops
Specific Use(s) Waxes are used to improve appearance, reduce dehydration, control spoilage organisms, and extend storage life.
Action
Combinations

Status

OFPA
N. L. Restriction
EPA, FDA, etc
Directions
Safety Guidelines
Historical status
International status

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This file is due back to us by: Aug. 5, 1996

RECEIVED AUG 0 1 1996

Name of Material: Fruit waxes
Reviewer Name: Paul Sachs

Is this substance synthetic or non-synthetic? Explain (if appropriate)

Can be either. Most waxes used to improve the luster of fruit are natural carnuba waxes.

If synthetic, how is the material made? (please answer here if our database form is blank)

This material should be added to the National list as:

- Synthetic Allowed** **Prohibited Natural, or**
- Non-synthetic (This material does not belong on National List)**

Are there any use restrictions or limitations that should be placed on this material on the National List?

There is a natural restriction in that if too much wax is used on most fruit it inhibits the exchange of gases through the skin and natural fermentation within the fruit can cause a buildup of gases, leading to bursting fruit.

Please comment on the accuracy of the information in the file:

None provided

Any additional comments? (attachments welcomed)

It was very difficult to find information on fruit waxes. I would suggest that NOSB contact some manufacturers of fruit waxes for technical information and MSDS information.

Do you have a commercial interest in this material Yes No

Signature Paul D. Sachs **Date** 8/1/96

**Please address the 7 criteria in the Organic Foods Production Act:
(comment in those areas you feel are applicable)**

1. the potential of such substances for detrimental chemical interactions with other materials used in organic farming systems;

The product is used after fruit is harvested, not in the field.

2. the toxicity and mode of action of the substance and of its breakdown products of any contaminants, and their persistence and areas of concentration in the environment;

The product has no toxicity that I know of.

3. the probability of environmental contamination during manufacture, use, misuse or disposal of such substance:

The waxes that naturally grow on the fruits skin have to be washed off before the new fruit waxes can be applied. It is unlikely that the disposal of those wastes would cause a problem.

4. the effect of the substance on human health;

There are no know adverse effects that I am familiar with.

5. the effects of the substance on biological and chemical interactions in the agroecosystem, including the physiological effects of the substance on soil organisms (including the salt index and solubility of the soil), crops and livestock;

The product is not used in the field and therefore has little or no effect on the agroecosystem.

6. the alternatives to using the substance in terms of practices or other available materials; and

7. its compatibility with a system of sustainable agriculture.

It is used purely as an aesthetic to make fruit more salable. It offers little benefit or damage to a system of sustainable agriculture.

NOSB Materials Database

1

Identification

Common Name Fruit Waxes **Chemical Name**
Other Names
Code #: CAS **Code #: Other**
N. L. Category Prohibited Natural **MSDS** yes no

Chemistry

Family
Composition
Properties
How Made

Use/Action

Type of Use Crops
Specific Use(s) Waxes are used to improve appearance, reduce dehydration, control spoilage organisms, and extend storage life.
Action
Combinations

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