

## **Policy on saving seed and rootstock that are labeled as organic**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to serve as guidance on saving harvested seeds and rootstock that are labeled, sold, or otherwise represented as organic.

### **Applicability**

This policy applies to all crop producers certified organic, certified transitional, or in application status with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA).

### **Scope**

This policy is focused on the saving and storage of organic seed and rootstock.

“Caught seed” is seed that is harvested from a previously produced crop for the intention of replanting the following growing season.

“Rootstock” is the rhizomatous underground part of a plant.

### **Authority**

TDA is accredited by the USDA National Organic Program under the authority of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C. §§6501 et seq.) as described in 7 CFR Part 205, National Organic Program. As such, TDA must carry out the provisions of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 and the National Organic Program Regulations (§205.501(a)(3)). Per §205.100, unless exempt or excluded in §205.101, each operation or portion of an operation that handles crops, livestock products, or other agricultural products that are intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as “100 percent organic,” “organic,” or “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))” must be certified according to the provisions of subpart E of 7 CFR Part 205

### **Policy**

In order to label saved seed or rootstock as certified organic, it must be harvested from a certified organic crop and all handling (cleaning, coating, bagging, and storage) must be conducted on-farm.

If handling of the saved seed or rootstock is conducted off-farm, it must be conducted by a certified organic handling operation.

NOTE: The producer must provide TDA with a copy of the handling operation’s organic certificate in order to certify the caught seed as organic.

TDA will review all producer operations on a case-by-case basis to determine whether or not the above criteria are met.