

Produce Inspection Forms

Certified Naturally Grown

Overview

The goal of the inspection is two-fold: 1) to verify that the CNG standards are being upheld, and 2) to systematically review practices with the inspector and reflect on how to improve the sustainability of the operation. Certification is not final until theinspection report is reviewed by CNG staff. Any practices which might not be in keeping with CNG standards should be noted. CNG staff can review and help the inspector to determine next steps. Rest assured that some non-compliances may be remedied easily and don't provide grounds for excluding a producer from certification.

The Farmer should...

- Before the inspection: complete the List of Inputs on the next page for the inspector to review on site
- During: walk through operation with inspector answering questions and sharing openly
- During: Complete the Sustainability Goals section (recommended)
- After: make a copy of the completed Worksheets, Summary Report, Overview, and List of Inputs to keep on file at the farm (recommended)

The Inspector should...

- Use the Inspection worksheets to (1) verify CNG standards are met, and (2) note highlights of what is discussed
 - Best option: We realize it's hard to capture the complexity of a farm. Please mark the answer that most closely reflects the farmer's practices. Use the Notes section on each page to clarify and provide details.
 - Not applicable: Some categories may not be applicable to the farm being inspected. That's okay! Please just explain why in the Notes section.
 - Corrective actions: Inspections can help identify areas where practices are not in alignment with CNG standards. If this is not a major violation and isn't intentional, the member may remain with CNG if they agree to take corrective actions. Use the Notes section to indicate what corrective actions will be taken by the farmer and when they will be taken to keep their certification in good standing. If you're unsure what may be appropriate, gather all relevant information and consult CNG staff at forms@naturallygrown.org
- Share insights and suggestions to help the farmer set goals for improvement
- Review the List of Inputs and previous Sustainability Goals
- Carefully complete the Summary Inspection Report and Inspector Contact Information (final 2 pages)
- Return all pages of the Inspection Worksheets to CNG using the contact info on last page.

affirm that I will make every effort to ensure that the information I provide during the inspection process is complete a ccurate.					complete and
nspector's name (print)	Initials	Date	Farmer's name (print)	Initials	Date

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LIST OF INPUTS

To expedite the process, this list may be completed beforehand by the farmer and then reviewed on site by the inspector. Alternatively, the inspector can fill it in during the inspection. This sheet should remain on farm for next year's inspection. It may be used again, and edited as needed. Computers can be handy for this section – feel free to type your list!

For reference you can see a list of allowed and prohibited inputs at www.naturallygrown.org/produce-flowers. It is not a comprehensive list, but includes the most common inputs. If you have a question on a specific product, you can do a quick search on the OMRI database (online at www.omri.org) or contact CNG.

CNG encourages weed, pest, and disease management practices that are:

- Preventative, such as cultural practices, variety selection, companion planting, crop rotation, and sanitation
- Mechanical and physical practices, such exclusion, mulching, flaming, pruning, hand removal, lures and traps
- Biological, botanical, or mineral, such as bacteria that target pest insects, botanical extracts (though not rotenone), and protective clays, among others

Inputs containing synthetic materials are not allowed, unless a specific variance is granted.

EXAMPLE

LAAWIF LL			
Product	Brand	Use (fertility, weeds, pest, disease, etc.)	Frequency/Amount
Potting Soil	PRO-MIX Organic Vege Herb Mix	stable & Seedlings	Weekly
Castile Soap	Dr. Bronner's	Pests - Aphids	Weekly in June/July, less often other times
Compost	McEnroe Organic	Fertilizer	20 lbs compost/100 sq ft every spring

roduct Brand Use (fertility, weeds, pest,		Frequency/Amount
	disease, etc.)	
		Brand Use (fertility, weeds, pests, and disease. You may also use a separate Use (fertility, weeds, pest, disease, etc.)

A. How does the producer evaluate whether or not a product is approved for use in CNG production?
B. If there is a product that is allowed with restrictions, please describe practices set in
place to ensure use is compliant with CNG standards. For example, a recent soil test is required before using any fertilizers with synthetic micronutrients. See www.naturallygrown.org/produce-flowers for more information about restricted products.
C. Are there any inputs that could be eliminated or reduced through cultural practices? Could any be replaced with a product produced locally?

Soil		
Meets CNG Standards	Doesn't meet CNG Standards	
(Check all that apply) □ crop rotation □ use of compost □ contour plowing □ rest/fallow periods □ minimize bare soil □ permanent bed system (i.e. no till) □ annual or perennial cover crops □ maintain surface plant residue □ tillage practices designed to reduce compaction	O Uses no practices to improve soil quality	
Compost, mineral amendments, and/or other approved fertilizers are: ☐ used only as needed (according to soil tests or 'bioindicators') ☐ made of known and CNG-approved ingredients ☐ lot currently used ☐ plan to use soil building techniques in the future	Uses any of the following: synthetic fertilizers (e.g. ammonia, phosphates) note: certain synthetic micronutrients may be used	
□ used only as needed (according to soil tests or 'bioindicators') □ made of known and CNG-approved ingredients □ plan to use soil building techniques in the future Is raw or partially composted manure used? (This does not apply to completely composted manure) ○ Yes ○ No If yes, then it's required that these two practices are followed. 1. Manure is applied at least 120 days before harvest if edible part of crop comes into contact with soil, AND 2. Manure is applied at least 90 days before harvest when edible portion does not come into contact with soil Are these practices followed? ○ Yes ○ No (please explain below)	as a soil amendment with a deficiency documented by a soil test. If relevant, please include in "additional notes" section sewage-based fertilizers (e.g. Milorganite)	
O All amendments/inputs are produced on farm. O Most amendments are produced on are produced on farm, with minimal external additions. O Some are produced on farm, and some are farm, all are external.	raw manure is applied LESS than 120 before harvest if edible part is in contact with soil or LESS than 90 days if edible part is not in contact with soil	
O Soil tested once per year or more O Soil tested less than once per year O Other modes of monitoring and assessing soil fertility are used (describe in notes below)	O No assessment of soil fertility. No interest in establishing a system to do so in the future.	
Please use this space for additional notes: ☐ on soil management ☐ on corrective actions ☐ if any sections didn't apply, OR ☐ if any answers fell under "Doesn't meet CNG standards" (please explain)		

Weeds			
Meets CNG Standards			Doesn't meet CNG Standards
O No herbicides used	O Approved herbicides used rarely, only as a last resort	O Approved herbicides used frequently	☐ Use of synthetic weed control (e.g. 2,4-D, Roundup®/ glyphosate)
(Check all that apply) ☐ Dense planting ☐ Targeted watering/fertilizing ☐ Living mulch ☐ Cover cropping for weed control ☐ Don't allow weeds to go to seed	 □ Solarization □ Tarping/occultation □ Mulching □ Flame weeding □ Mowing 	☐ Timely Weeding ☐ Manual removal (hand-weeding, hoeing, etc.) ☐ Tractor cultivation ☐ Stale seed bedding	☐ No plans/system to prevent weeds. No interest in establishing plan to in the future.
☐ All mulches are biodegradable <u>and</u> <u>not manufactured</u> (e.g. straw, woodchips)	☐ All mulches <u>are biodegradable</u> E.g. woodchips, paper, straw, approved biodegradable plastic films	☐ Use of plastic mulch that is removed at the end of each season ☐ Use of weed barriers that can be used for multiple seasons.* They are removed before they begin break down. *CNG recommends using reusable weed barriers (rather than singleseason black plastic) wherever practicable.	Any of the following: Failure to remove plastic mulch before it breaks down. Use of oxo- or photo-degradable plastic mulch films. Continued use of biodegradable plastic mulch when degradation rate appears low.
Please use this space for additional no	otes:		
 □ on weed management □ on corrective actions □ if any sections didn't apply, OR □ if any answers fell under "Doesn't meet CNG standards" (please explain) 			

Pests					
Meets CNG Standards				Doesn't meet CNG Standards	
Frequency of monitoring (informal or	requency of monitoring (informal or formal):				
O Frequent and regular	O Occasional	O Infre	quent or none	* } }	
Records:					
 include all relevant details (e.g pest, affected crop, timing, % damage, intervention, etc.) are consulted to inform future practices 	. are intermittent or lack important details	some	or no records are kept		
Connecting monitoring with manager	ment practices:				
O Management is based on real-tim monitoring of insect population or crop damage			nt observations or past	***	
Cultural and physical practices to pre	event and manage pests	☐ Basic preventative p	oractices, e.g. sanitation	Either of the following:	
□ adjusted planting schedule □ altered timing of disturbances (e.g. tilling or mowing) □ release predatory insects □ insectary □ permanent habitat for pest predators □ trap crops □ cover crops to break pest cycles	 □ manual removal □ physical barriers (e.g. row cover) □ crop rotation □ selecting pest-resistant varieties □ diversity of crops/varieties □ intercrop fields or beds with non-host plants 	Use of approved insection O used infrequently, based on monitoring O pest-specific	O used frequently	 No pest prevention or control practices are used, and no plan to begin in the future. Use of synthetic applications to control insect pests (e.g. Sevin®, malathion) or prohibited natural substances (e.g. rotenone) 	
Please use this space for additional ☐ on pest management ☐ on corrective actions ☐ if any sections didn't apply, OR ☐ if any answers fell under "Doesn't meet CNG standards" (please explain)	al notes:				

Disease			
Meets CNG Sta	Doesn't meet CNG Standards		
Frequency of monitoring (informal or formal):	Frequency of monitoring (informal or formal):		
O Frequent and regular O Occasional	requent and regular O Occasional O Infrequent or none		
Records:		\	
 □include all relevant details (e.g. disease, affected crop, timing, % important details damage, intervention, etc.) □are consulted to inform future practices 	r lack some □ Few or no records are kept.		
Connecting monitoring with management practices:			
O Management is based mostly on real-time monitoring of disease presence or crop damage O Management is based mostly on of previous monitor of previous monitors.			
Cultural and physical practices to prevent and manage disease	☐ Basic preventative practices, e.g. sanitation	Either of the following:	
□ adjusted planting schedule □ manual removal & disposal of diseased tissue/plants □ cover crops to break disease cycles □ physical barriers (e.g. high tunnel) □ extended crop rotation □ plant spacing for air flow □ pruning plants for air flow □ adjusted irrigation schedule to reduce leaf wetness □ diversity of crops/varieties □ intercrop fields or beds with non-host plants □ manual removal & disposal of diseased tissue/plants □ physical barriers (e.g. high tunnel) □ selecting disease-resistant varieties □ diversity of crops/varieties □ intercrop fields or beds with non-host plants □ use of drip tape to limit leaf wetness □ manual removal & disposal of diseased tissue/plants	Use of approved fungicides: O used infrequently, based on monitoring O disease-specific O broad spectrum	 □ No disease prevention or control practices are used, and no plan to begin in the future. □ Use of synthetic applications to control diseases (e.g. Quadris®, chlorothalonil, Stratego®) 	
Please use this space for additional notes: ☐ on disease management ☐ on corrective actions ☐ if any sections didn't apply, OR ☐ if any answers fell under "Doesn't meet CNG standards" (please explain)			

Preventing contamination			
Meets CNG Standards			Doesn't meet CNG Standards
(Check all that apply) ☐ Buffer zone of at least 20 feet* ☐ Barriers taller than height of crop between growing areas and possible sources of contamination nearby. *Conventional orchards or other land uses with high risk of drift require buffer of 100 ft. The slope of land, prevailing wind patterns, and no-spray agreements with neighbors should also be taken into account in evaluating the necessary minimum buffer. These factors can reduce or increase the risk of runoff and drift.			Insufficient separation of growing areas from potential sources of contamination, such as industry, treated lawns, conventional orchards or farm fields. This includes fields managed conventionally on the same farm as the CNG fields.
areas. co	quipment, tools or sprayers are used for CNG and ponventional areas, but they are always cleaned soroughly before use in CNG areas.	0	Equipment, tools or sprayers are used for CNG & conventional areas without being cleaned in between.
last 36 months or more. to	ynthetic pesticides or fertilizers are known or suspected have been used within the last 36 months, AND: farm certification is labeled 'transitional' application includes information on what was applied & when	0	Prohibited synthetic pesticides or fertilizers have been used within the last 36 months, but farm's certification is not labeled transitional.
Please use this space for additional notes:	, v		
 □ on preventing contamination □ on corrective actions □ if any sections didn't apply, OR □ if any answers fell under "Doesn't meet CNG standards" (please explain) 			

Seeds & Planting Stock		
Meets CN	Doesn't meet CNG Standards	
Seeds: O All seeds are CNG, certified organic or verified to be grown according to CNG standards. O Nearly all seeds are CNG or grown according to CNG standards. Rare used (allowed only with applicable exception *) O Some conventional seeds are used (allowed only with applicable exception *)		Use of seeds that are conventionally-grown*, genetically modified, or chemically treated Use of conventionally grown seeds to grow sprouts (seeds sprouted without soil).
* All seeds must be non-GMO and free from synthetic chemica An exception to the rule prohibiting conventionally-grown seeds commercially in organically grown form. Farmer should check v	s may be granted when the specific variety sought is not available	
<u>1.</u> <u>2.</u>	3.	<u></u>
Transplants: O All transplants are CNG, certified organic, or verified to be grown according to CNG standards	O All transplants are grown on farm O Most transplants are grown on farm O Some transplants are grown on farm O All transplants are purchased	Transplants grown with synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, wetting agents, or seeds that are genetically modified or chemically treated.
Crop Diversity: ☐ High level of crop diversity and/or crop varieties and/or crop varieties ☐ Mixed Cropping ☐ Companion Planting ☐ Open-Pollinated Varieties ☐ Seeds Saved on farm		
Please use this space for additional notes: ☐ on seeds ☐ on transplants ☐ on microgreens/sprouts ☐ if any sections didn't apply, OR ☐ if any answers fell under "Doesn't meet CNG standards" (please explain)		22

Environment				
		Meets CNG Standards	\	Doesn't meet CNG Standards
☐ No on-farm use of fossil fuels.	□ wind□ solar□ biofuel□ geothermal	 □ reducing tractor passes □ equipment maintenance to improve efficiency □ energy efficient appliances □ energy efficient lighting, cooling, heating 	Evaluating steps to reduce energy consumption or reliance on non-renewable energy. Plan to do so in the near future (i.e. next 6 mo.)	
☐ heavy mulching ☐ rainwater harvesting ☐ contouring AND/OR ☐ earth-shaping for rain		☐ drip tape ☐ modular overhead sprinkler systems	Considering steps to reduce water use and developing a plan to do so in the near future (i.e. next 6 mo.)	
O All waste is compost	ed, recycled or upcycled.	O Moderate steps taken to reduce, recycle, or upcycle non-degradable waste.	O Considering steps to reduce waste and developing a plan to do so in the near future (i.e. next 6 mo.)	
ensuring generous v waterways controlling invasive s	woodlands, or grasslands egetative buffers to	☐ managing field edges for native species☐ using live hedges☐ pollinator plantings	☐ reducing tillage or other disturbances, ☐ selecting cover crops to support pollinators	
Please use this space	e for additional notes:		·	
 □ on disease manag □ on corrective actions □ if any sections dide □ if any answers fell "Doesn't meet CN(please explain) 	n't apply, OR under			

Non-CNG Crops and Materials
Does the grower sell any produce that they do not grow?
Note this can happen in different ways, not all of which are allowed. For example a) expanding variety by selling on behalf of another farm, or b) supplementing the supply of a particular crop by purchasing from wholesale markets.
If the grower sells any produce they don't grow themselves, how do they distinguish it from their CNG crops to avoid customer misperceptions?
For the record, please list any crops that are excluded from CNG certification. Why are they excluded?
Are there any other practices or materials that do not adhere to CNG standards? If so, what are they and what is the grower's plan to stop using these practices or materials?
Overall
Additional notes or aspects about any aspect of the farm (Feel free to include a good story, or practices or projects that show how the grower is going above and beyond the baseline requirements for CNG certification.)

Sustainability Goals: going beyond the core standards

We are united by our commitment to improving the soil and caring for the earth and our families with the long-term view in mind. We are focused mainly on ecological sustainability; however, the continued success of any farm depends on the economic and social factors as well.

The farmer should take this opportunity to reflect on and set some goals for improving sustainability on his or her farm using the inspector as a sounding board. These may be short-term or long-term goals and could be in any of the following areas, or others:

- Soil: preventing erosion and runoff, building organic matter, cover cropping, reducing compaction
- Water: Use efficiency, rain water capture, run-off prevention, protecting wetlands and waterways
- Inputs: Use efficiency, reducing use, replacing with local products and/or preventative practices
- Biodiversity: Protecting/providing habitat for wildlife, buffering wild areas
- Supporting biological cycles: Habitat for pollinators, beneficial insects
- Energy: Energy efficiency, renewable energy
- Waste: Reduction, reuse, recycling
- Economic viability Maintain/improve the bottom line; pay yourself and staff fair wages.
- Engaging the community: Educate the public, increase food access

What are 3 goals for improving sustainability of your operation in the short term and long term? Discuss strategies to achieve these goals.

Goal	Time frame	Steps necessary to make it happen
1.		
2.		
3.		

Certified Naturally Grown PRODUCE SUMMARY INSPECTION REPORT

Farmer/s:		Farm name:	
Inspector:		Affiliation (farm name, ex	ktension)
Inspector is a:	□CNG Farmer □Sust Ag Educator	□Farmer using natural pr	practices ☐ Cert Organic Farmer ☐ Customer (1 of 3)
Date of the inspection:		_ How long did the ins	spection last?:
•	•	ia remote video? and must follow www.natura	In Person ☐ Remote Video* allygrown.org/remote-inspections-policy
Based on my observat declarations about the		h the producer(s), I feel	confident in making the following
The producer engages promote the long-term resources on their farm	fertility of soils and co		Agree / Disagree (Your initials)
The farmer demonstration air, soils, waters, and be		•	Agree / Disagree (Your initials)
I saw no evidence that fungicides, or chemica	•		Agree / Disagree (Your initials)
The land under consider adequate buffer to prof		-	Agree / Disagree(Your initials)
The farmer is careful to chemically treated see	_	5	Agree / Disagree (Your initials)
I feel confident in recor	nmending that the ab	ove listed producer(s) a	and their farm
	be included	not be inclu	ıded
		in the	e Certified Naturally Grown program
Signature of Inspector		Date	
Signature of Farmer		Date	
Optional: Attended by	Two Additional Custo	mers, or by These Comr	munity Observers:
Customer/Observer Si	gnature Date		Title or Role
Customer/Observer Si	gnature Date		 Title or Role

INSPECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

This information will be kept completely confidential but is required for this form to be valid. It is only so we have the option to contact you with any follow-up questions and/or to confirm that you conducted the inspection and filled in this form.

Farm you	ı in	spected:					
Your Name:			Affiliation:				
Your Phone:				Your Email:			
Your Mai	ling	g Address:					
					_		
	g w		•		S staff. Any practices which might not be ew and help the inspector to determine		
□I recor	nm	end this farm		I recommend the farm with minor corrective actions	□I don't recommend this farm for CNG certification		
You're a	lmo	st done! But FIR	ST:				
1		Did you sign the	you sign the Summary Inspection Report at the bottom?				
ļ		Did the farmer s	Did the farmer sign too?				
I		Did you initial the agree/disagree statements?					
1		Did you indicate	your farm/	affiliation on the summary re	eport?		
And for f	un.						
I		Document the oc	casion with	a celebratory photo			
1		Email your photos to photos@naturallygrown.org					
I		Share on Instagram or Facebook					
I		Use these hashta	ags:				
		#CNGproud #CNGinspection					
		#ONO INSPECTION					

Please return all these Inspection Forms to CNG using one of the methods below.

We encourage you to email scanned images of your report. It helps us reduce paper waste, and supports our shift to more efficient electronic record keeping. (Free apps for scanning using your smart phone are noted below). We prefer it when all pages are merged together into a single PDF.

Mail to: Email to:

Certified Naturally Grown
PO Box 153
Temple, NH 03084

Email to:

forms@naturallygrown.org

* Free phone apps: * Kindly merge all individual pages into a single PDF file

We recommend a copy of these forms (or the original) is left with the producer whose operation was inspected.

Contact us with any questions! forms@naturallygrown.org or 845-262-2551

ADDITIONAL CUSTOMER OR COMMUNITY OBSERVER CONTACT INFORMATION

This in ormation will be ept ompletely on idential e as or it so we have the option to onta t you with any ollow up uestions e sin erely than you or bein a part o the Certi ied aturally rown Community

Farm Name:	
Customer/Observer:	
Your Name:	
Your Role and/or Affiliation*:	
Your Phone:	
Your Email:	
Your Mailing Address: (Street)	
(Town, State, Zip)	
Customer/Observer:	
Your Name:	
Your Role and/or Affiliation*:	
Your Phone:	
Your Email:	
Your Mailing Address: (Street)	
(Town, State, Zip)	

* What roles do you play in the community? For example: customer, chef at Breakfast Bar, market manager at Green Park Market, librarian, reporter at Blue Stone Press, crossing guard, teacher, faith leader, soccer coach, mail carrier, etc.

Use the space below if you'd like to share any feedback with CNG. We welcome your input!



Glossary of Terms ~ Produce Inspection Forms

Soil:

Permanent Bed System – Often referred to as no-till or scrape tilling. A system that eliminates deep tillage and plant beds are maintained in place perennially.

Contour Plowing – Plowing or tilling along the contour of the land (rather than in straight line) to minimize erosion.

Bioindicators – Common "eye tests" that indicate soil health. Some examples include: presence of observable life in soil, color of soil, observable health of crops, feel of soil, drainage, how soil breaks on ground when dropped.

Weeds:

Living Mulch – A crop that is interplanted with cash crops where the primary purpose is to cover soil and/or suppress weeds.

Solarization – Use of a material (usually a clear plastic tarp) to trap solar energy in order to sterilize weed seeds. Can also be used against pests and diseases.

Tarping/Occultation – Covering the ground with an object through which light cannot penetrate. The object is then removed once weeds seeds have germinated and died (typically after several weeks).

Flame Weeding – The use of a flame thrower or another fuel burning device to kill weeds. The goal is not to set plants on fire, but to damage their cell structure of their foliage. It is most effective when weeds are at thread stage.

Timely Weeding – Timing cultivation practices to keep crop growth ahead of weed growth.

Stale Seed Bed – Also referred to as a "false seed bed." A seedbed created weeks before seeding or transplanting where weeds are allowed to germinate and then controlled by a practice that does not disturb the soil. Crop is then planted with minimal weed competition.

This page does not need to be returned to CNG

Pests:

Trap Crops – A crop planted to divert pests from a nearby crop. It works most effectively when the trap crop and pests on it are destroyed. Common examples are collard greens for cabbage moth, nasturtiums for aphids and blue Hubbard squash for cucumber beetles.

Insectary Plant - Also referred to as beneficial insectary. A plant that attracts pollinating or predatory insects. Common examples are marigolds, alyssum, cosmos, calendula and phacelia.

Disease:

Extended Crop Rotation – A crop rotation that maximizes time before a crop some the same family is planted in the same field. For instance, if a soil-borne disease resides in the soil for five years, a seven-year rotation will be much more affective than a three-year rotation for disease management.

Seeds & Planting Stock:

Wetting Agent - A chemical that can be added to a liquid to reduce its surface tension. It is common in synthetic potting soils and prohibited in CNG use. Aloe is a natural alternative.

Open-Pollinated Varieties – Varieties that are bred with natural pollination mechanisms, such as wind, birds, bees or humans. This differs from hybridization, where pollination is controlled and limited to two different varieties or species. Open pollination results in greater genetic diversity since there is no restriction between the flow of pollen between plants.

Multi-Cropping – The practice of planting two or more crop in the same field.

Companion Planting – The practice of planting two or more crops in close proximity to each other that enhance one or more of the plants' growth.

This page does not need to be returned to CNG.