



EARTH TAG

ECO-CARE POTTED

PLANT STANDARD

EDITION: ET – ECOPLANT.STD – 11



PREFACE

To maintain the quality of ornamental plants, large volumes of chemical pesticides are often used in the planting process. This leads to environmental pollution, water contamination, and poses health risks to the ecosystem, growers, and consumers.

Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant Standard is the world's premier certification for potted plants ensuring that no chemical pesticides are used during the first-line planting process. This protects the environment, preserves water sources, and promotes the health of both growers and consumers.

Beyond the use of non-toxic planting materials, all plastic pots must be made from biodegradable materials to minimize plastic waste and reduce environmental impact.

Established in October 2010, Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant Standard enhances environmental awareness among the commodities and promotes sustainable practices in the industry. Earth Tag symbolizes the close relationship between humans and nature, underscoring the need to preserve and care for the planet.

This standard provides consumers with a reliable way to verify that Eco-care growers produce eco-friendly, non-toxic potted plants. It covers the entire process, from production practices and labeling to distribution and waste disposal. To meet the standard, growers must fulfill essential criteria such as maintaining complete production and sales records and following an eco-care production and handling plan in order to obtain certification.

The Earth Tag Label serves as a trusted certification mark, exclusively issued to certified growers who comply with annual audits. This ensures that potted plants bearing the Earth Tag Logo are safe, eco-friendly, and

free from harmful chemicals. Consumers can confidently choose Earth Tag-certified Eco-care potted plants, knowing they contribute to a healthier environment and a sustainable future.

EARTH TAG SDN. BHD.

Registered No.: 202601012422 (1674520T)

No. 29, Jalan Bukit Tambun, Taman Tambun Jaya, 14100 Simpang Ampat, Seberang Perai Selatan, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia.

Contact No.: (+6) 012-428 3077

Website: www.earthtag.com.my

Email: earthtagcertification@gmail.com

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1.0 Definitions

- (a) Accreditation: A determination made by the Secretary that authorizes by Earth Tag Management Representative to conduct certification activities as a certifying agent under this part.
- (b) Administrator: The Administrator for the Earth Tag Management Representative or the Earth Tag Authorized Team’s representative to whom authority has been delegated to act in the stead of the Administrator.
- (c) Agricultural inputs: All substances or materials used in the production or handling of Eco-care Potted plants.
- (d) Annual seedling: A plant grown from seed that will complete its life cycle or products a harvestable yield within the same potted plant year or season in which it was planted.
- (e) Area of operation: The types of operations: Potted plants production or handling, or any combination thereof that a certifying agent may be accredited to certify under this part.
- (f) Big plant: Any big size plant which require pot size 392mm and above. Mostly for landscaping purposes.
- (g) Biodegradable: Subject to biological decomposition into simpler biochemical or chemical components.
- (h) Biosolids: A sewage sludge that is refer as treated human waste.
- (i) Segregation zone: A clearly defined and identifiable boundary area bordering an Eco-care production site that is established to limit application of, or contact with, prohibited substances from an adjacent area.
- (j) Certification or certified: The procedure by which the certification body gives written assurance that a clearly identified production and handling processes have been methodically assessed, such that adequate confidence is provided that specified products conform to specified requirements.
- (k) Certified operation: A Potted plant production or handling operation, or portion of such operation that is certified by Earth Tag Authorized Team as utilizing a system of Eco-care production or handling as described by the Act and the regulations in this part.
- (l) Certifying agent: A Earth Tag Authorized Team who is trained for the purpose of certifying a production or handling operation as a certified production or handling operation.
- (m) Chemical Fertilizer: Any inorganic material (a material which is composed of minerals, or made from minerals; not animal or vegetable in origin) of wholly or partially synthetic origin that is added to the soil to sustain plant growth.
- (n) Commingling: Physical contact between Eco-care produced and non-Eco-care produced potted plants during production, processing, transportation, storage or handling.
- (o) Compost: The product of a managed process through which microorganisms break down plant and animal materials into more available forms suitable for application to the growing media.
- (p) Control: Any methods that reduces or limits damage by populations of pests, weeds, or diseases to levels that do not significantly reduce productivity.
- (q) Conversion period: The time between the start of the Eco-care management and the certification of potted plants as Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant.
- (r) Eco-care: A labelling term that refers to a potted plant produced in accordance with the Act and the regulations in this part.
- (s) Eco-care production: A production system that is managed in accordance with the Act and regulations in this part to respond to site-specific conditions by



- integrating cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity.
- (t) Eco-care Plants: Any potted plants that are included ornamental flower, indoor plant and herb marketed in the country for either as decorative purposes or human consumption (potted herb only).
 - (u) Eco-care seed and plant material: Seed and planting material that is produced under certified Eco-care management.
 - (v) Fertilizer: A single or blended substance containing one or more recognized plant nutrient(s) which is used primarily for its plant nutrient content and which is designed for use or claimed to have value in promoting plant growth.
 - (w) Field: An area of land identified as a discrete unit within a production operation.
 - (x) Genetic engineering: Genetic engineering is a set of techniques from molecular biology (such as recombinant DNA) by which the genetic material of plants, animals, micro-organisms, cells and other biological units may be altered in ways or with result that could not be obtained by methods of natural mating and reproduction of natural recombination. Techniques of genetic modification include, but are not limited to: recombination DNA, cell fusion, micro and macro injection, encapsulation, gene deletion and doubling. Genetically engineered organisms do not include organisms resulting from techniques such as conjugation, transduction and natural hybridization.
 - (y) Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) : A plant, animal, or microbe that is transformed by genetic engineering.
 - (z) Governmental entity: Any domestic government, tribal government, or foreign governmental subdivision providing certification services.
- (aa) Growing media: Material in which potted plants & flowers are grown.
 - (bb) Grower: Any person engaged in the business of handling potted plants of their own production, except such term shall not include final retailers of potted plants that do not grow their own products.
 - (cc) Hanging plant: A plant that grows downwards or hangs, often from a hanging pot or a high surface.
 - (dd) Immediate family: The spouse, minor children, or blood relatives who reside in the immediate household of a certifying agent or an employee, inspector, contractor, or other personnel of the certifying agent.
 - (ee) Information panel: That part of the label of a packaged product that is immediately contiguous to and to the right of the principal display panel as observed by an individual facing the principal display panel, unless another section of the label is designated as the information panel because of package size or other package attributes (e.g., irregular shape with one usable surface).
 - (ff) Ingredient: Any substance used in the production of a potted plant that is still present in the final commercial product.
 - (gg) Inspector: Any person retained or used by a certifying agent to conduct inspections of certification applicants or certified production or handling operations.
 - (hh) Inspection: The act of examining and evaluating the production or handling operation of an applicant for certification or certified operation to determine compliance with the Act and the regulations in this part.
 - (ii) Label: A display of written, printed, or graphic material on the immediate container of an potted plant or any such material affixed to any potted plant or affixed to a bulk container containing an



- potted plant, except for package liners or a display of written, printed, or graphic material which contains only information about the weight of the product.
- (jj) Labelling: All written, printed, or graphic material accompanying a potted plant at any time or written, printed, or graphic material about the agricultural product displayed at retail stores about the product.
 - (kk) Manure: Faeces, urine, other excrement, and bedding produced by livestock that has not been composted.
 - (ll) Mulch: Any non-synthetic material, such as wood chips, leaves, or straw, or any newspaper or plastic that serves to suppress weed growth, moderate growing media temperature, or conserve growing media moisture.
 - (mm) Noncompliance: The failure or refusal to comply: the failure or refusal to conform and adapt one's actions to a rule or to necessity.
 - (nn) Nursery unit: The total area of land under the control of one nursery or collective of nursery, and including all the nursery activities or enterprises.
 - (oo) Organic matter: The remains, residues, or waste products of any organism.
 - (pp) Organic compound fertilizer: Any manufactured fertilizer contained 2 or more plant essential nutrients that includes animal and plant by-products such as manure, fish and bone meal. The organic matter content shall be more than 35% and total of NPK shall not be more than 25%.
 - (qq) Potted plant: Indoor plant, flower and ornamental herb intended to be marketed as a potted plant or used in the field to manage nutrients and growing media fertility.
 - (rr) Potted plant rotation: The practice of relocation the potted plants grown on a different green house in a planned pattern or sequence in successive growing stages so that potted plants of the same species or family are not grown repeatedly at the same green house.
 - (ss) Operator: An individual or business enterprise, responsible for ensuring that products meet the certification requirements.
 - (tt) Practice standard: The guidelines and requirements through which a production or handling operation implements a required component of its production or handling Eco-care system plan. A practice standard includes a series of allowed and prohibited actions, materials, and conditions to establish a minimum level performance for planning, conducting, and maintaining a function, such as facility pest management, essential to an Eco-care operation.
 - (uu) Parallel production: Any production where the same unit is growing or handling the same products in both a certified Eco-care system and a non-certified or non-Eco-care system. A situation with "Eco-care" production of the same product is also parallel production. Parallel production is a special instance of partial production.
 - (vv) Partial conversion or split production: Where only part of nursery or unit is certified as Eco-care. The remainder of the property may be (a) non-Eco-care, (b) in conversion or (c) Eco-care but not certified.
 - (ww) Permitted substance: A substance that appears in part 6 of this standard which the substances is allowed for use in Eco-care production or handling.
 - (xx) Private entity: Any domestic or foreign non-governmental for-profit or not-for-profit organization providing certification services.
 - (yy) Grower: A person who engages in the business of growing or producing potted plant.



- (zz) Prohibited substance: A substance the use of which in any aspect of Eco-care production or handling is prohibited or not provided for in the Act or the regulations of this standard.
- (aaa) Planting Stock: Any plant or plant tissue other than annual seedlings but including rhizomes shoots, leaf or stem cuttings, roots, or tubers, used in plant production or propagation.
- (bbb) Records: Any information in written, visual, or electronic form that documents the activities undertaken by a grower, handler, or certifying agent to comply with the Act and regulations in this standard.
- (ccc) Secretary: The Secretary of Earth Tag Eco-care Standard or a representative to whom authority has been delegated to act in the Secretary's stead.
- (ddd) Sewage sludge: A solid, semisolid, or liquid residue generated during the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works. Sewage sludge includes but is not limited to: domestic seepages; scum or solids removed in primary, secondary, or advanced wastewater treatment processes; and a material derived from sewage sludge.
- (eee) Split operation: An operation that produces or handles both Eco-care and non Eco-care Potted plants.
- (fff) Growing media and water quality: Observable indicators of the physical, chemical, or biological condition of growing media and water, including the presence of environmental contaminants.
- (ggg) Synthetic Manufactured by chemical and industrial processes: May include products not found in nature, or simulation of products from natural sources (but not extracted from natural raw materials)
- (hhh) Transplant: A seedling which has been removed from its original place of production, transported, and replanted.

- (iii) Wild Potted plant: Any plant or portion of a plant that is collected or harvested from a site that is not maintained under cultivation or other agricultural management.

2.0 Applicability

2.1 Items to be Certified

- (a) Scope:
 - (1) Potted Plants
- (b) Potted plants shall only be cultivated using growing media that is free from chemicals. Water-based systems are not considered.
- (c) Operation or specified portion of a production that produces or handles potted plants, or other agricultural products that are intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as “Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant” must be certified according to the provisions of subpart 4 of this part and must meet all other applicable requirements of this part.

2.2 Use of Eco-care Term

Any potted plant that are sold, labeled or represented as “Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant” must be produce and handle fully in accordance with the Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant Standard requirement.

2.3 Record Keeping

All certified operation must maintain records concerning the production of potted plants that are intended to be sold, labeled a “Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant”. All records must:-

- (a) Be adapted to the particular business that the certified operation is conducting;
- (b) Fully disclose the details of all activities and transactions of the certified operation in sufficient details as to readily understood and audited;
- (c) Be maintained for minimum of 2 years beyond their creation;



- (d) Be sufficient to demonstrate compliance with Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plants Standard

2.4 Allowed and Prohibited Substances and Methods in Eco-care Production and Handling

To be sold or labeled as “Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant” the product must be produced and handled according to the following provisions:

- (a) Substances applied to the growing media and potted plants shall be in accordance with Appendix 1.
- (b) Non-synthetic substances as per listed in Appendix 2 is prohibited.
- (c) Sewage sludge describe in Standard Malaysian Organic Scheme (SOM), MS 1529:2001 and Environmental Quality Act 1974: Environmental Quality (Sewage) Regulation 2009, is prohibited.

3.0 Eco-care Production and Handling Requirements

3.1 General

The grower of a production shall have clear segregation from Eco-care planting zone through non Eco-care practice in the nursery.

The certification of potted plant as “Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant” is involved with facility site inspection and annual audit which shall both meet fully compliance by Earth Tag Authorized Team with approval by Earth Tag Management Representative.

The certification is only certified to location addressed in the application form, whenever if, the grower has more than one location to produce Eco-care plants under single application, then the grower must stated all the location (address) in the application form. If the grower expanding the Eco-care production to another new location (not certified yet), then the grower must notify or written to Earth Tag Authorized Team and approved by Earth Tag Management Representative. Then, the next audit must cover the new location by Earth Tag Authorized Team.

The materials used by grower for Eco-care Potted Plant shall meet the requirement in “Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant” Standard and shall be approved by Earth Tag Management Representative.

All materials used must meet the Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plants standards. If testing and experimentation are required, all costs must be fully borne by the grower. Materials that have not been approved by Earth Tag management representative are classified as prohibited substance or material.

The grower of a production must comply with the applicable provisions of this subpart. The production practices implemented must maintain or improve the eco-friendliness toward natural resources of the operation.

3.2 Eco-care Production and Handling System Plan

- (a) The grower of a production or handling operation intending to sell, label, or represent potted plant as “Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant” must develop an Eco-care production or handling system plan.

This Eco-care production or handling system plan must be agreed by the grower and also by Earth Tag Authorized Team with final approval of Earth Tag Management Representative.

For Eco-care production, an Eco-care system plan must meet the requirements set in this section. An Eco-care production or handling system plan must include:

- (1) A description of practices and procedures including the frequency to be performed and maintained,
- (2) A description of the monitoring practices and procedures including the frequency to be performed and maintained. This is to verify that the plan is effectively implemented;
- (3) A description of the record keeping system implemented to comply with the requirements established in 2.3 record keeping.



- (4) A description of the management practices and physical barriers to be established to prevent commingling of Eco-care and non Eco-care products. Split operation is required to prevent contact of Eco-care production and handling operations, and also to prevent products with prohibited substances.
- (5) Additional information deemed necessary by the certifying agent to evaluate compliance with the regulations.

3.3 Nursery Requirements

Any nursery parcel from which potted plant are intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as “Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant”, must:

- (a) Prove the nursery has legal rights with all necessary regulatory approvals.
- (b) Have been managed in accordance with the provisions of 3.4 (Growing media fertility and potted plant nutrient management practice standard) through 3.7 (Potted plant pest, weed, and disease management practice standard);
- (c) Have had no prohibited substances applied to the potted plant immediate after the application submitted.
- (d) Have distinct, defined boundaries and effective segregation zones. This is to prevent the unintended application of a prohibited substance to the potted plant or prohibited substance applied to adjoining land that is not under Eco-care management.
- (e) Have clear separation of the equipment and tools used for Eco-care plant and non-Eco-care plant.

3.4 Growing Media Fertility and Potted Plant Nutrient Management Practice Standard

- (a) The grower is encouraged to manage plant residue in order to recycle or turned into useful compost to maintain or improve growing media organic matter content. The compost composition is allowed to have

both plant and animal residues. Raw animal manure and plant residue must be composted to use as plant nutrient amendment. The way it is managed must not contribute to contamination of potted plants, growing media, or water by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.

- (b) A grower may not use of material that is not approved by Earth Tag Management Representative and including the list at Appendix 2 (Non-synthetic substances) prohibited for use in Eco-care Potted plant production, but not limited to:
 - (1) Sewage sludge (biosolids) as describe in Environmental Quality Act 1974: Environmental Quality (Sewage) Regulation 2009.
 - (2) Burning as a means of disposal for potted plant residues produced on the operation as describe in Environmental Quality Act 1974 [Act 127] (P.U. (A) 460/2003 Environmental Quality (Declared Activities) (Open Burning) Order 2003); Except that, burning may be used to suppress the spread of disease or to stimulate seed germination as allowed in Plant Quarantine Act 1976 [Act 167].

3.5 Seeds and Planting Stock Practice Standard

- (a) The grower is encouraged to use good quality grown seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock. The good quality seeds are categories:
 - (1) Purity and trueness to type—Good seeds should not contain seed of other crops or weeds and should be the correct cultivar. For best results, seeds must meet minimum germination standards. The germination percentage must be shown on the package.
 - (2) Packages and storage—Seeds sold in packages should show the crop, cultivar, germination percentage, and chemical seed treatments, if any. Seeds should be kept dry and cool to insure good germination at planting. Laminated foil packets insure dry storage. Paper packets are best kept in tightly closed cans or jars until seeds are planted.



- (3) Hybrid seeds — Many seeds are hybrids. Hybrid seed often costs more than seed of non-hybrid cultivars. However, hybrids usually have increased vigor, better uniformity, larger yields and sometimes specific disease resistance or other unique cultural characteristics.
- (4) Saving your own seed — Some experienced gardeners save their own seed. This practice requires the gardener to know the proper techniques for selecting, producing, handling, and storing the seed. Seed from hybrid plants should never be kept. Likewise, it may be unwise to keep seed from plants that are easily cross-pollinated.

- (b) Commercial seeds treated with prohibited substances may be used to produce an Eco-care potted plant. But, the seeds and planting stock must not be treated with prohibited substances after during the growing stages once after sowing;
- (c) Transplantation of planting stock or seedling which is treated with prohibited substances need to be managed using Earth Tag Eco-care production system for at least three (3) months before it can be labeled as Earth Tag Eco-care plant.
- (d) Seedlings must not be treated with prohibited substances except the synthetic plant grow regulators (PGRs) may be used if the natural produce is not available.
- (e) The imported seedling from oversea must meet the requirement of Malaysian Phytosanitary Certification Assurance (MPCA) Scheme or International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to prevent possibility of invasion of pest and disease to become domain in the country.
- (f) The producer must not use GMO seeds, annual seedlings and planting stocks to produce Eco-care potted plants.

3.6 Potted Plant Rotation Practice Standard

The grower is encouraged to practice potted plant rotation by relocation the same species

(different growing stages) plant to different location. But, the potted plant rotation is not limited to the practices above. However, the potted plant rotation must able to provide the following functions that are applicable to the operation:

- (a) Provide for pest management in annual and perennial potted plants;
- (b) Reduce motion through movement of moving the plant between greenhouses; which encourage varies species with similar growing stage inside each green house to smooth plant shipping delivery.

3.7 Potted plant Pest, Weed, and Disease Management Practice Standard

- (a) The grower must use management practices to prevent potted plant pests, weeds, and diseases including as below but not limited to:
 - (1) Potted plant rotation and growing media and potted plant nutrient management practices, as provided for in 3.4 and 3.6.
 - (2) Sanitation measures to remove disease vectors, weed seeds, and habitat for pest organisms; and
 - (3) Cultural practices that enhance potted plant health, including selection of plant species and varieties with regard to suitability to site-specific conditions and resistance to prevalent pests, weeds, and diseases.
- (b) Pest problems may be controlled through mechanical or physical methods including as below but not limited to:
 - (1) Expansion or introduction of predators or parasites of the pest species;
 - (2) Development of habitat for natural enemies of pests;
 - (3) Non-synthetic controls such as lures, traps, and repellents.
- (c) Weed problems may be controlled through:
 - (1) Mulching with fully biodegradable materials;
 - (2) Mowing;
 - (3) Hand weeding and mechanical cultivation or;
 - (4) Plastic or other synthetic mulches: Provided that, only polyethylene (PE) allowed and they are removed from the



field at the end of the growing or harvest season. Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) products are prohibited.

- (d) Disease problems may be controlled through:
 - (1) Management practices which suppress the spread of disease organisms; or
 - (2) Application of non-synthetic biological, botanical, or mineral inputs.

- (e) When the practices provided for in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this section are insufficient to prevent or control potted plant pests, weeds, and diseases, a biological or botanical substance, or substance included on Appendix 1 Synthetic substances allowed for use in Eco-care potted plant production may be applied. Provided that application of each allowed synthetic substance shall be recorded and documented.

3.8 Wild Ornamental Plant Harvesting Practice Standard

- (a) Under the International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008 [Act 686] and National Forestry Act 1984; a wild ornamental plant must not intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as “Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant”.

3.9 Facility Pest Management Practice Standard

- (a) The grower of an Eco-care facility must use management practices to prevent pests, including but not limited to:
 - (1) Practice 6S to removal of pest habitat, food sources, and breeding areas;
 - (2) Prevention of access to handling facilities; and
 - (3) Management of environmental factors, such as temperature, light, humidity, atmosphere, and air circulation, to prevent pest reproduction.

- (b) Pests may be controlled through:
 - (1) Mechanical or physical controls including but not limited to traps, light, or sound; or
 - (2) Lures and repellents using nonsynthetic or synthetic substances listed in Appendix 1.

- (c) The grower who applies a non-synthetic or synthetic substance to prevent or control pests must documented the use of such substances and methods of application. The updated eco-care potted plant plan must include a list of all measures taken to prevent contact of the organically produced products or ingredients with the substance used.

3.10 Commingling and Contact with Prohibited Substance Prevention Practice Standard

- (a) The handler of an Eco-care handling operation must implement measures necessary to prevent the commingling of eco and non-eco products and protect Eco-care potted plants from contact with prohibited substances.

- (b) The following are prohibited for use in the handling of Eco-care potted plants in accordance with Part 4 of this standard:
 - (1) Packaging materials, and storage containers, or bins that contain a synthetic fungicide, preservative, or fumigant;
 - (2) The use or reuse of any bag or container that has been in contact with any substance in such a manner as to compromise the Eco-care integrity of Eco-care potted plants placed in those containers, unless such reusable bag or container has been thoroughly cleaned and poses no risk of contact of the organically produced product or ingredient with the substance used.

- (c) Where equipment or machinery are used in non-eco care potted plant cultivation systems, such as spreading equipment, clean-down procedures shall be in place, and recorded, to ensure no contamination may occur to the certified Eco-care potted plants area.

3.11 Temporary Variances

- (a) Temporary variances from the requirements in 3.4 through 3.8 may be established by the Administrator for the following reasons:



- (1) Natural disasters declared by the Secretary;
 - (2) Damage caused by drought, wind, flood, excessive moisture, hail, tornado, earthquake, fire, or other business interruption; and
 - (3) Practices used for the purpose of conducting research or trials of techniques, varieties, or ingredient used in Eco-care production.
- (b) Earth Tag authorized team or Earth Tag inspection representatives may submit a written recommendation to the administrator for a temporary variance from the standards specified in part 3. This includes one or more of the reasons stated in part 3.11(a).
- (c) The Administrator will provide written notification to Earth Tag Authorized Team upon establishment of a temporary variance applicable to the certifying agent's certified production and specify the period of time it shall remain in effect, subject to extension as the Administrator deems necessary.
- (d) An Earth Tag Authorized Team, upon notification from the Administrator of the establishment of a temporary variance, must notify each production it certifies to which the temporary variance applies.
- (e) Temporary variances will not be granted for any practice, material, or procedure prohibited under part 2.4.

4.0 Labels, Labeling, and Market Information

4.1 Use of the Term, "Eco-care"

- (a) The term, "Eco-care," may only be used on labels and in labeling of potted plants that have been produced in accordance with the regulations in this part.
- (b) Potted plants for export, produced and certified to foreign national Eco-care standards or foreign contract buyer requirements, may be labeled in accordance with the Eco-care labeling requirements of the receiving country or contract buyer: Provided that, the shipping containers and

shipping documents meet the labeling requirements specified in 4.1.

- (c) Potted plants produced in a foreign country and exported for sale in the Malaysia must be certified pursuant to part 5 of this standard and labeled pursuant to part 4 of this standard.

4.2 Product Composition

- (a) The Eco-care plants' composition must be eco-friendly, non-toxic and safe for human. Whenever, the Eco-care plants sold or labeled, it must pursuant to 4.3.
- (b) Eco-care plant composition material are, but not limited to:
 - (1) Plastic pot fulfilled RoHs (Restriction of Hazardous Substances) and Oxo-biodegradable requirement; this criterion is an exemption for any hanging plants and big plants due to the needs to maintain the appearance and safety measures.
 - (2) Oxo-biodegradable requirement will be an exemption for tray, plastic bag or other packaging material if no suitable material available, under approval by Earth Tag Management Representative.
 - (3) Plant nutrient amendment through meaning of composting process or chemical fertilizer is allowed. It's not limited to plant nutrient that approved by Earth Tag Management Representative and synthetic substances allowed for use in Eco-care potted plant production at Appendix 1.
 - (4) Growing media is encouraged to incorporate with beneficial microbe to encourage and enhance plant growth and protection from diseases.

4.3 Earth Tag Label

- (a) Eco-care certified plant is identified by Earth Tag label.
- (b) All Eco-care potted plants with Earth Tag label can only be placed within segregation area.



- (c) Earth Tag label symbolize human and nature are closely related; it's representing Eco-care plants' cultivation are eco-friendly, non-toxic and safe for human. The certificate number, as shown in Figure 1, serves as the identity of each certified Earth Tag Eco-care grower.



Figure 1: Earth Tag Label

4.4 Labeling of Non-retail Containers Used for Only Shipping or Storage of Eco-care plant Labeled as “Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant”

- (a) Non-retail containers used only to ship or store Eco-care plant labeled as Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant may display the following terms or marks:
 - (1) The name and contact information of the certifying agent which certified the grower which assembled the final product;
 - (2) Identification of the product as Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant;
 - (3) Special handling instructions needed to maintain the Eco-care integrity of the product;
 - (4) Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant label;
 - (5) The label, logo, or other identifying mark of the certifying agent that certified the Eco-care production that produced or handled the finished product.
- (b) Non-retail containers used to ship or store Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant labeled as containing Eco-care plant must display the production lot number of the product if applicable.
- (c) Shipping containers of domestically produced product labeled as Eco-care intended for export to international markets may be labeled in accordance with any shipping container labeling requirements of the foreign country of destination or the

container labeling specifications of a foreign contract buyer: Provided, That, the shipping containers and shipping documents accompanying such Eco-care products are clearly marked "For Export Only" and: Provided further, That, proof of such container marking and export must be maintained by the handler in accordance with recordkeeping requirements

4.5 Eco-care Plant in Other than Eco-care Nursery at The Point of Retail Sale That Are Sold or Labeled as “Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant”

- (a) Eco-care plants in other than Eco-care nursery may use the term " Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant" as applicable, to modify the name of the product in retail display, labeling and display containers.
- (b) If the Eco-care plant is placed in a certified facility, the retail display, labeling, and display containers may use:
 - (1) The Earth Tag label; and
 - (2) The label, logo, or other identifying mark of the certifying agent that certified the Eco-care plant: Provided, such labels or marks are not individually displayed more prominently than the Earth Tag label.

4.6 Eco-care Plants Produced On an Exempt or Excluded Operation

- (a) Exemption or exclusion of this operation refers to the buyer or retail owner reusing containers for replanting; However, this exemption or exclusion process must not:
 - (1) Display the Earth Tag label or any certifying agent's label or other identifying mark which represents the exempt or excluded operation as a certified Eco-care operation, or
 - (2) Be represented as a certified Eco-care plant to any buyer.

5.0 Certification

5.1 General Requirement for Certification

A person who wishes to receive or maintain Eco-care certification must:



- (a) Comply with the Act and applicable Eco-care production.
- (b) Establish, implement and update an Eco-care production or handling system plan annually and submitted to Earth Tag Authorized Team as provided for in 3.2.
- (c) Allow on-site inspections on the production or handling operation, which include non-certified production and handling areas, structures and offices by the certifying agent as provided in 5.4.
- (d) Maintain all records that are applicable to the Eco-care operation for not less than three years.
- (e) Submit the applicable fees.
- (f) Immediately notify the certifying agent when:
 - (1) Applicants have applied any prohibited substance at certified field, production unit, site, facility, or product that is part of an operation.
 - (2) There are changes in a certified operation that may affect its compliance with the Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant Standard.

5.2 Application for the Certification

The applicant must submit an application for the certification to a certifying agent. The application must include:

- (a) An Eco-care production or handling system plan as required in 3.2.
- (b) Applicant’s name, company’s name, addresses and contact number.
- (c) The name(s) of any certifying agent(s) and year(s) of application that previously made.
- (d) Applicant need to provide a copy of noncompliance or denial of certification issued to the applicant for certification, and a description of the actions taken by the applicant to correct the noncompliance.
- (e) Other information necessary to determine compliance with the Act and the regulations.

5.3 Review of Application

When the certifying agent accepts an application for certification, the certifying agent must:

- (a) Review the application to ensure the applicant complete the form pursuant to 5.2.
- (b) Application materials will determine whether the applicant appears to comply with the applicable requirement.
- (c) Verify applicant who previously applied to another certifying agent has submitted documentation to support the correction of any noncompliance that identified in the notification of noncompliance pursuant to 5.4.
- (d) Schedule an on-site inspection of the operation within one month to determine the applicant’s qualifies for the certification.

After the inspection, the certifying agent must:

- (a) Review the application materials received.
- (b) Provide the applicant with a copy of the on-site inspection report, as approved by the certifying agent.
- (c) The applicant may withdraw its application at any time. An applicant who withdraws its application shall be liable for the costs of services.

5.4 On-Site Inspection

On Site Inspection:

- (a) Must conduct an initial on-site inspection of each production unit, facility, and site that produce or handles Eco-care plant.
- (b) Conducted annually.
- (c) Additional inspection may be announced or unannounced.

Scheduling:



- (a) The initial on-site inspection must be conducted within one month or may be delayed up to six months with the conditions.
- (b) On-site inspection must be conducted when an authorized representative of the operation is present.

Verification of information:

- (a) The operation must comply with the Act and the regulation.
- (b) The information which includes the Eco-care production or handling system plan provided in accordance with 5.2, 5.7 and 3.2.
- (c) Prohibited substances that are not permitted for use can be verified through the collection and testing of plant growing media, water, waste, seeds, and plant tissues.

Exit interview:

- (a) The inspector must conduct an exit interview with an authorized representative of the operation who is knowledgeable about the inspected operation to confirm the accuracy and completeness of inspection observations and information gathered during the on-site inspection. The inspector must also address the need for any additional information as well as any issues of concern.

Documents to the inspected operation:

- (a) A copy of the on-site inspection report.

5.5 Granting Certification

After completion of the initial on-site inspection, certifying agent must review on-site inspection report, the results of any analyses conducted, and any additional information supplied by the applicant within one month. If the Eco-care system plan and all the procedures and activities of the applicant's operation are compliance with the requirements, the agent shall grant certification.

The certifying agent must issue a certificate of Eco-care operation which includes:

- (a) Name and address of the certified operation.
- (b) Effective date of certification.
- (c) Variety of Eco-care plants produced by the certified operation.
- (d) Name, address and contact number of the certifying agent.

Once certified, a production or handling operation's Eco-care certification continues in effect until surrendered by the Eco-care operation or suspended or revoked by the certifying agent or the Administrator.

5.6 Denial of Certification

The certifying agent has reason to believe that the applicant is not in compliance with the requirements for certification based on 5.3 or 5.5 then the certification agent must provide a written notification of noncompliance to the applicant.

The notification of noncompliance shall include:

- (a) A description of each noncompliance.
- (b) The fact upon which the notification of noncompliance is based.
- (c) The date of the applicant to correct each noncompliance.
- (d) Submit supporting document for each corrective action is done.

When the applicant receives notification of noncompliance, applicant may:

- (a) Correct the noncompliance and submit support documentation of a description of the corrective actions taken to the certifying agent.
- (b) Submit written information to the certifying agent to oppose the noncompliance.



After certifying agent receives the notification of noncompliance from applicant, certifying agent must:

- (a) Evaluate the corrective actions taken and supporting documentation submitted by the applicant.
- (b) If necessary conduct another on-site inspection to clarify the corrective actions.
- (c) When the corrective action is sufficient for the applicant to qualify for certification, the certifying agent can issue an approval of certification pursuant to 5.5.
- (d) When the corrective action is not sufficient for the applicant to qualify for certification, certifying agent need to issue a written notice of denial of certification.
- (e) Issue a written notice of denial of certification to applicant who fails to respond to the notification of noncompliance.
- (f) Provide a notice of approval or denial to the administrator pursuant to 5.1

A notice of denial of certification must state the reasons for denial and the applicant's has the right to:

- (a) Reapply for certification pursuant to 5.2 and 5.6.
- (b) Request mediation pursuant to 6.9.
- (c) File an appeal of the denial of certification pursuant to 6.15.

An applicant who has received a written notice of denial of certification may apply for certification again at any time with any certifying agent in accordance with 5.2 and 5.6. Applicant need to include a copy of the notification of noncompliance or notice of denial and a description of the actions taken.

A certifying agent must treat the application as new application and begin new application process pursuant to 5.3, when received an applicant with the notification of noncompliance or a notice of denial of certification.

Certifying agent may deny certification when the applicant made a false statement.

5.7 Continuation of Certification

- (a) In order to continue certification, a certified operation must annually pay the certification fees and submit the following information to the certifying agent:
 - (1) An updated Eco-care production or handling system plan which includes:
 - (i) A summary statement, supported by documentation, detailing of any deviations from, changes to, modifications to, or other amendments made to the previous year's Eco-care system during the previous year.
 - (ii) Any additions or deletions to the previous year's Eco-care system plan, plan to be undertaken in the coming year, detailed pursuant to 3.1.
 - (2) An update on the correction of minor noncompliance that previously identified by certifying agent.
 - (3) Other information as deemed necessary by the certifying agent.
- (b) The certifying agent shall arrange a reasonable time and conduct on-site inspection.
- (c) If the certifying agent has reason to believe, based on the on-site inspection and a review of the information specified in 5.5, that a certified operation is not complying with the requirement of the Act and the regulations in this part, the certifying agent shall provide a written notification of noncompliance to the operation accordance with 6.8.
- (d) If the certifying agent determines that the certified operation is complying with the Act and regulation in this part and any of the information specified on the certificate of Eco-care operation has changed, the certifying agent must issue an updated certificate of Eco-care operation pursuant to 5.5.



6.0 Administrative

6.1 Evaluation Criteria for Allowed and Prohibited Substances, Methods, and Ingredients

The following criteria will be utilized in the evaluation of substances or ingredients for the Eco-care production and handling sections:

- (a) Synthetic and non-synthetic substances considered for inclusion on or deletion from the List of allowed and prohibited substances as refer to USDA National Organic Program Standards.
- (b) In addition to the standards set by this regulation, any synthetic substance used as processing aids or adjuvants will be evaluated according to the standards, specifically including:
 - (1) The substance is not an essential component of eco-care cultivation and cannot be derived from natural resources;
 - (2) The production, use, and disposal of the substance must not cause adverse environmental impacts and must comply with eco-care cultivation handling principles;
 - (3) When used, the herb must retain its nutritional value, and the decomposition of the substance must not pose any harm to human health;
 - (4) The substance must not contain excessive heavy metals or other contaminants exceeding the permissible limits.

Part 6.2 – 6.6 Compliance

6.2 General

- (a) The Earth Tag Management Representative, on behalf of the Secretary, may inspect and review certified production and handling operations and accredited certifying agents for compliance with the Act or regulations in this part.
- (b) The Earth Tag Management Representative may initiate suspension or revocation proceedings against a certified operation:

- (1) When the Earth Tag Management Representative has reason to believe that a certified operation has violated or is not in compliance with the Act or regulations in this part; or
- (2) When a certifying agent fails to take appropriate action to enforce the Act or regulations in this part.

- (c) The Earth Tag Management Representative may initiate suspension or revocation of a certifying agent's accreditation if the certifying agent fails to meet, conduct, or maintain accreditation requirements pursuant to the Act or this part.
- (d) Each notification of noncompliance, rejection of mediation, noncompliance resolution, proposed suspension or revocation, and suspension or revocation issued pursuant to 6.4, 6.5 and 6.6 and each response to such notification must be sent to the recipient's place of business via a delivery service which provides dated return receipts.

6.3 Investigation of Certified Operations

- (a) A certifying agent may investigate complaints of noncompliance with the Act or regulations of this part concerning production and handling operations certified as Eco-care by the certifying agent. A certifying agent must notify the Administrator of all compliance proceedings and actions taken pursuant to this part.
- (b) The Administrator may investigate complaints of noncompliance with the Act or regulations in this part concerning Eco-care production or handling operations operating in the State.

6.4 Noncompliance Procedure for Certified Operations

- (a) *Notification.* When an inspection, review, or investigation of a certified operation by a certifying agent reveals any noncompliance with the Act or regulations in this part, a written notification of noncompliance shall be sent to the certified operation. Such notification shall provide:
 - (1) A description of each noncompliance;



- (2) The facts upon which the notification of noncompliance is based; and
 - (3) The date by which the certified operation must rebut or correct each noncompliance and submit supporting documentation of each such correction when correction is possible.
- (b) *Resolution.* When a certified operation demonstrates that each noncompliance has been resolved, the certifying agent, as applicable, shall send the certified operation a written notification of noncompliance resolution.
- (c) *Proposed suspension or revocation.* When rebuttal is unsuccessful or correction of the noncompliance is not completed within the prescribed time period, the certifying agent shall send the certified operation a written notification of proposed suspension or revocation of certification of the entire operation or a portion of the operation, as applicable to the noncompliance. When correction of a noncompliance is not possible, the notification of noncompliance and the proposed suspension or revocation of certification may be combined in one notification. The notification of proposed suspension or revocation of certification shall state:
- (1) The reasons for the proposed suspension or revocation;
 - (2) The proposed effective date of such suspension or revocation;
 - (3) The impact of a suspension or revocation on future eligibility for certification; and
 - (4) The right to request mediation or to file an appeal.
- (d) *Willful violations.* Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, if a certifying agent has reason to believe that a certified operation has willfully violated the Act or regulations in this part, the certifying agent shall send the certified operation a notification of proposed suspension or revocation of certification of the entire operation or a portion of the operation, as applicable to the noncompliance.
- (e) *Suspension or revocation.*
- (1) If the certified operation fails to correct the noncompliance, to resolve the issue

through rebuttal or mediation, or to file an appeal of the proposed suspension or revocation of certification, the certifying agent shall send the certified operation a written notification of suspension or revocation.

- (2) A certifying agent or Administration must not send a notification of suspension or revocation to a certified operation that has requested mediation or filed an appeal, while final resolution of either is pending.
- (f) *Eligibility.*
- (1) A certified operation whose certification has been suspended under this section may at any time, unless otherwise stated in the notification of suspension, submit a request to the Secretary for reinstatement of its certification. The request must be accompanied by evidence demonstrating correction of each noncompliance and corrective actions taken to comply with and remain in compliance with the Act and the regulations in this part.
 - (2) A certified operation or a person responsibly connected with an operation whose certification has been revoked will be ineligible to receive certification for a period of 3 years following the date of such revocation, *Except*, That, the Secretary may, when in the best interest of the certification program, reduce or eliminate the period of ineligibility.

6.5 Mediation

For the denial of certification or the proposed suspension or revocation of certification under this section, the applicant for certification or the certified operation may request mediation, subject to approval by the certifying agent. The mediation request must be submitted in writing to the relevant certifying agent.

If the certifying agent rejects the mediation request, they must provide written notification to the applicant for certification or the certified operation. This written notification must inform the applicant or certified operation of their right to request an appeal, in accordance with Section 6.11, within 30 days from the



date of the written notification of the mediation request rejection.

If the certifying agent accepts the mediation request, the mediation shall be conducted by a qualified mediator mutually agreed upon by both parties.

The parties to the mediation shall have no more than 30 days to reach an agreement following a mediation session. If mediation is unsuccessful, the applicant for certification or certified operation shall have 30 days from termination of mediation to appeal the certifying agent's decision pursuant to 6.11.

Any agreement reached during or as a result of the mediation process shall be in compliance with the Act and the regulations in this part. The administrator may review any mediated agreement for conformity to the Act and the regulations in this part and may reject any agreement or provision not in conformance with the Act or the regulations in this part.

6.6 Noncompliance Procedure for Certifying Agents

(a) *Notification.* When an inspection, review, or investigation of an accredited certifying agent by the Earth Tag Management Representative reveals any noncompliance with the Act or regulations in this part, a written notification of noncompliance shall be sent to the certifying agent. Such notification shall provide:

- (1) A description of each noncompliance;
- (2) The facts upon which the notification of noncompliance is based; and
- (3) The date by which the certifying agent must rebut or correct each noncompliance and submit supporting documentation of each correction when correction is possible.

(b) *Resolution.* When the certifying agent demonstrates that each noncompliance has been resolved, the Earth Tag Management Representative shall send the certifying agent a written notification of noncompliance resolution.

(c) *Proposed suspension or revocation.* When rebuttal is unsuccessful or correction of the noncompliance is not completed within the

prescribed time period, the Earth Tag Management Representative shall send a written notification of proposed suspension or revocation of accreditation to the certifying agent. The notification of proposed suspension or revocation shall state whether the certifying agent's accreditation or specified areas of accreditation are to be suspended or revoked. When correction of a noncompliance is not possible, the notification of noncompliance and the proposed suspension or revocation may be combined in one notification. The notification of proposed suspension or revocation of accreditation shall state:

- (1) The reasons for the proposed suspension or revocation;
- (2) The proposed effective date of the suspension or revocation;
- (3) The impact of a suspension or revocation on future eligibility for accreditation; and
- (4) The right to file an appeal pursuant to 6.11.

(d) *Willful violations.* Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, if the Earth Tag Management Representative has reason to believe that a certifying agent has willfully violated the Act or regulations in this part, the Earth Tag Management Representative shall send a written notification of proposed suspension or revocation of accreditation to the certifying agent.

(e) *Suspension or revocation.* When the accredited certifying agent fails to file an appeal of the proposed suspension or revocation of accreditation, the Earth Tag Management Representative shall send a written notice of suspension or revocation of accreditation to the certifying agent.

(f) *Cessation of certification activities.* A certifying agent whose accreditation is suspended or revoked must:

- (1) Cease all certification activities in each area of accreditation and in each State for which its accreditation is suspended or revoked.
- (2) Transfer to the Secretary and make available to the Secretary and or the



Administrator all records concerning its certification activities that were suspended or revoked.

(g) Eligibility.

- (1) A certifying agent whose accreditation is suspended by the Secretary under this section may at any time, unless otherwise stated in the notification of suspension, submit a request to the Secretary for reinstatement of its accreditation. The request must be accompanied by evidence demonstrating correction of each noncompliance and corrective actions taken to comply with and remain in compliance with the Act and the regulations in this part.
- (2) A certifying agent whose accreditation is revoked by the Secretary shall be ineligible to be accredited as a certifying agent under the Act and the regulations in this part for a period of not less than 3 years following the date of such revocation.

Part 6.7 – 6.9 Inspections and Testing, Reporting, and Exclusion from Sale

6.7 Inspection and Testing of Agricultural Product to be Sold or Labeled “Eco-care.”

- (a) All potted plants that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as “Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant” must be made accessible by certified Eco-care production or handling operations for examination by the Administrator, or the certifying agent.
- (b) The Administrator, or the certifying agent may require testing of any agricultural input used or agricultural product to be sold, labeled, or represented “Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant” when there is reason to believe that the agricultural input or product has come into contact with a prohibited substance or has been produced using excluded methods. Such tests must be conducted by the certifying agent at the applicant’s own expense.

6.8 Exclusion from Eco-care Sale

When labeled potted plant is found out that not using bio-degradable pot, the Eco-care plants

must not be sold, labeled, or represented as Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant.

6.9 Emergency Pest or Disease Treatment

When a prohibited substance is applied to a certified operation due to a Federal or State emergency pest or disease treatment program and the certified operation otherwise meets the requirements of this part, the certification status of the operation shall not be affected as a result of the application of the prohibited substance: Provided, that:

- (a) Any harvested potted plant or plant part to be harvested that has contact with a prohibited substance applied as the result of a Federal or State emergency pest or disease treatment program cannot be sold, labeled, or represented as Earth Tag Eco-care Potted Plant.

Part 6.10 – 6.11 Adverse Action Appeal Process

6.10 General

- (a) Persons subject to the Act who believe that they are adversely affected by a noncompliance decision of a certifying agent may appeal such decision to the Administrator.
- (b) All written communications between parties involved in appeal proceedings must be sent to the recipient's place of business by a delivery service which provides dated return receipts.
- (c) All appeals shall be reviewed, heard, and decided by persons not involved with the decision being appealed.

6.11 Appeals

- (a) *Certification appeals.* An applicant for certification may appeal a certifying agent's notice of denial of certification, and a certified operation may appeal a certifying agent's notification of proposed suspension or revocation of certification to the Administrator,
 - (1) If the Administrator sustains a certification applicant's or certified operation's appeal of a certifying agent's



decision, the applicant will be issued Eco-care certification, or a certified operation will continue its certification, as applicable to the operation. The act of sustaining the appeal shall not be an adverse action subject to appeal by the affected certifying agent.

- (2) If the Administrator denies an appeal, a formal administrative proceeding will be initiated to deny, suspend, or revoke the certification.

- (b) *Filing period.* An appeal of a noncompliance decision must be filed within the time period provided in the letter of notification or within 30 days from receipt of the notification, whichever occurs later. The appeal will be considered “filed” on the date received by the Administrator. A decision to deny, suspends, or revoke certification or accreditation will become final and non appeal able unless the decision is appealed in a timely manner.

- (c) *Where and what to file.*
 - (1) Appeals to the Administrator must be filed in writing and addressed to:
Administrator, Earth Tag Eco-care
Potted Plant Standard, 1384, Atas Lot
841, MK-1, Jalan Tasek, 14120
Simpang Ampat, Seberang Perai
Selatan, Penang, Malaysia.
 - (2) Appeals must be filed in writing to the address and person identified in the letter of notification.
 - (3) All appeals must include a copy of the adverse decision and a statement of the appellant's reasons for believing that the decision was not proper or made in accordance with applicable program regulations, policies, or procedures.

7.0 References

- (a) Earth Tag Organic Standards;
- (b) R307 – General Requirement;
- (c) Accreditation of ISO/IEC Guide 65 Product Certification Bodies;
- (d) Starting Seeds Indoors, Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service;
- (e) USDA National Organic Program Standards (7 CFR Part 205);
User Manual European Eco-label Growing Media, 2006.

**Appendix : List of non-synthetic and synthetic substances allowed for use in Eco-care Potted plant production**

In accordance with restrictions specified in this section, the following synthetic substances may be used in Eco-care potted plant production: Provided that, use of such substances do not contribute to contamination of potted plants, growing media, or water.

Substances description, compositional requirements	Conditions for use
Alcohols (Ethanol, Isopropanol)	As algicide, disinfectants, and sanitizer, including irrigation system cleaning systems.
Algal preparations	As far as obtained by: (i) physical processes including dehydration, freezing and grinding; (ii) extraction with water or potassium hydroxide solutions, provided that the minimum amount of solvent necessary is used for extraction; (iii) fermentation.
Animal preparations and oils	
Aquatic plant extracts (other than hydrolyzed)	Extraction process is limited to the use of potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide; solvent amount used is limited to that amount necessary for extraction.
Ammonim carbonate	For use as bait in insect traps only, no direct contact with potted plant or growing media
Aqueos potassium silicate (CAS#-1312-76-1)	The silica, used in the manufacture of potassium silicate, must be sourced from naturally occurring sand
Bacterial preparations (e.g. Bacillus thuringiensis)	
Beeswax	
Biodynamic preparations	
Biodegradable processing by-products of microbial origin, e.g. by-products of brewery or distillery processing	
Biodegradable processing by-products, plant or animal origin, e.g. by-products of food, feed, oilseed, brewery, distillery or textile processing	Free of significant contaminants; or composted before bringing onto organic land and confirmed free of significant contaminants
Blood meal, meat meal, bone, bone meal	
Bordeux mixture	
Burgundy mixture	
Boric acid	Structural pest control, no direct contact with Eco-care potted plants
Calcium hydroxide (hydrated lime)	For application on aerial plant parts only
Calcium lignosulfonate	
Carbon dioxide and nitrogen gas	Shall not be the result of burning fuel solely to produce carbon dioxide; allowed only as a by-product of other processes.
Casein	Allowed is not from animal origin
Chitin nematicides (natural origin)	Not processed by acid hydrolysis
Chloride of lime (calcium chloride)	
Chlorine materials (e.g. Calcium hypochlorite, Chlorine dioxide, Sodium hypochlorite)	<i>Except</i> , That, residual chlorine levels in the water shall not exceed the maximum residual disinfectant limit under the Safe Drinking Water Act.



Substances description, compositional requirements	Conditions for use
Clay (e.g. bentonite, perlite, vermiculite, zeolite)	
Crop residues and plant materials, mulch, green manure, straw	
Coffee grounds	
Compost made from ingredients listed in this appendix,	
Coppers, fixed	Copper hydroxide, copper oxide, copper oxychloride, includes products exempted from EPA tolerance, <i>Provided</i> , That, copper-based materials must be used in a manner that minimizes accumulation in the soil and shall not be used as herbicides.
Copper sulfate	Substance must be used in a manner that minimizes accumulation of copper in the soil. Application rates are limited to levels which do not increase baseline growing media test values for copper over a timeframe agreed upon by the grower and accredited certifying agent.
Corn gluten meal	
Dairy products (e.g. milk, casein)	
Diatomaceous earth	
Elemental sulfur	
Ethyl alcohol	
Extract from Chlorella	
Extract from mushroom (Shiitake fungus)	
Ferric phosphate (CAS # 10045–86–0).	As slug or snail bait
Fermented product from Aspergillus	
Fungal preparations (e.g. spinosad)	
Gelatin	Allowed if not from animal origin
Guano	
Herbal and biodynamics preparations	
Homeopathic and Ayurvedic preparations	
Hoof and horn meal, feather meal, fish and shell products, wool, hide, fur, hair, dairy products	
Humic acids	Naturally occurring deposits, water and alkali extracts only.
Hydrated Lime	
Hydrogen peroxide	
Hydrogen chloride (CAS # 7647–01–0)	For delinting cotton seed for planting.
Iron phosphates (for use as molluscicide)	
Lecithin	Allowed if not from animal origin
Light mineral oils (paraffin)	
Lime sulfur (Calcium polysulfide)	



Substances description, compositional requirements	Conditions for use
Limestone, gypsum, marl, maerl, chalk, sugar beet lime, calcium chloride,	
Lignin sulfonate	Chelating agent, dust suppressant.
Liquid fish products	Can be pH adjusted with sulfuric, citric or phosphoric acid. The amount of acid used shall not exceed the minimum needed to lower the pH to 3.5.
Magnesium rock, kieserite and Epsom salt (magnesium sulfate)	For use only to control the viscosity of a clay suspension agent for humates.
Magnesium oxide (CAS # 1309-48-4)	For use only to control the viscosity of a clay suspension agent for humates.
Magnesium sulfate	Allowed with a documented soil deficiency.
Microbiological preparations based on naturally occurring organisms	
Microcrystalline cheesewax (CAS #'s 64742-42-3, 8009-03-08, and 8002-74-2)	For use in log grown mushroom production. Must be made without either ethylene-propylene co-polymer or synthetic colors.
<p>Micronutrient/Trace elements, e.g.:</p> <p>Soluble boron products: boric acid, sodium borate, calcium borate, borethanolamin, Sulfates, carbonates, oxides, or silicates of zinc, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, selenium, and cobalt: cobalt-acetate, cobalt-sulphate, copper oxide, copper sulfate, copper hydroxide, copper silicate, copper carbonate, copper citrate, ferric oxide, ferric sulfate, ferrous sulfate, iron citrate, iron sulfate, or iron tartrate, manganous oxide, manganese sulfate and manganese carbonate, selenic acid, selenous acid, sodium molybdate, molybdic oxide, zinc carbonate, zinc oxide, zinc silicate, and zinc sulfate</p>	<p>Not to be used as a defoliant, herbicide, or desiccant. Use restricted to cases where soil/plant nutrient deficiency is documented by soil or tissue testing or diagnosed by an independent expert. Micronutrients in either chloride or nitrate forms are prohibited. Micronutrients may not be used as a defoliant, herbicide, or desiccant.</p>
Microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, fungi) e.g., bacillus thuringiensis, Granulosis virus	Only approved microorganisms are allowed. Imported microorganisms must be approved by Earth Tag Management Representative.
Mineral potassium (e.g. sulfate of potash, muriate of potash, kainite, sylvanite, patenkali	Shall be obtained by physical procedures but not enriched by chemical processes.
Mulches, nets	
Natural acids (e.g. vinegar)	
Natural plant preparations, excluding tobacco	
Neem (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>)	
Newspaper or other recycled paper (without glossy or colored inks)	As mulches or compost feedstocks
Oils, horticultural	Narrow range oils as dormant, suffocating, and summer oils.



Substances description, compositional requirements	Conditions for use
Other non-synthetic calcareous and magnesium amendments	
Ozone gas	For use as an irrigation system cleaner only.
Paper-based crop planting aids	Virgin/recycled paper without glossy paper or colored inks.
Paraffin oils	
Peracetic acid	For use in disinfecting equipment, seed, and asexually propagated planting material; For use to control fire blight bacteria.
Peat	Excluding synthetic additives
Pheromones – in traps and dispensers only	
Physical methods (e.g. chromatic traps, mechanical traps)	
Plant based repellents	
Plant oils	
Plant preparations and extracts	
Plastic mulch and covers	Petroleum-based other than polyvinyl chloride (PVC)
Phosphates in non-synthetic form (e.g. rock phosphate, colloidal phosphate, apatite)	Cadmium content less than or equal to 90 mg/kg of P ₂ O ₅
Potassium bicarbonate	
Potassium permanganate	
Potassium soap (soft soap)	
Polyoxin D zinc salt	
Propolis	
Pulverized rock, stone meal, crushed stone.	
Pyrethrum (<i>Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium</i>)	The synergist Piperonyl butoxide is prohibited.
Quassia (<i>Quassia amara</i>)	
Release of parasites, predators and sterilized insects	
Ryania (<i>Ryania speciosa</i>)	
Sabadilla	
Seasalt and salty water	Allowed if not fortified with synthetic additives
Seaweed and seaweed products	As far as obtained by: (i) physical processes including dehydration, freezing and grinding; (ii) extraction with water or potassium hydroxide solutions, provided that the minimum amount of solvent necessary is used for extraction; (iii) fermentation.
Silicates (e.g. sodium silicates, quartz)	As floating agents in post-harvest handling, for tree fruit and fiber processing.
Slug or snail bait	
Soaps, ammonium	As animal repellents, for use as a large animal repellent only, no contact with growing media or edible portion of potted plant.



Substances description, compositional requirements	Conditions for use
Soaps, insecticidal, algicide/demossers	
Soaps, herbicides	For use in nursery stead maintenance (roadways, ditches, right of ways, building perimeters) and potted plants
Sticky traps/barriers	
Sodium bicarbonate	
Sodium chloride	
Sodium silicate	For tree fruit and fiber processing
Soft soap	
Spent mushroom waste, humus from worms and insects,	
Squid byproducts	From food waste processing only. Can be pH adjusted with sulfuric, citric, or phosphoric acid. The amount of acid used shall not exceed the minimum needed to lower the pH to 3.5.
Source separated human excrement	Only in compliance with requirement 4.4.5.
Sterilized insect males	
Streptomycin	For fire blight control in apples and pears only.
Sucrose octanoate esters (CAS #s—42922–74–7; 58064–47–4)	In accordance with approved labelling.
Sulfur	
Sulfur dioxide	Underground rodent control only (smoke bombs)
Sulfurous acid (CAS # 7782–99–2)	For on-farm generation of substance utilizing 99% purity elemental sulfur
Urban composts and household wastes from separated sources which are monitored for contamination	
Vermicastings	
Viral preparations (e.g. granulosis virus)	
Vitamins, C and E	
Vitamin D3	As rodenticides.
Wood, bark, sawdust, wood shavings, wood ash, wood charcoal	Only if not chemically treated



Appendix 2: Non-synthetic substances prohibited for use in Eco-care potted plant production

Prohibited non-synthetic substances	Description
Ash from manure burning.	
Arsenic	
Calcium chloride	Brine process is natural and prohibited for use except as a foliar spray to treat a physiological disorder associated with calcium uptake.
Lead salts	
Potassium chloride	Unless derived from a mined source and applied in a manner that minimizes chloride accumulation in the soil.
Rotenone (CAS # 83–79–4)	
Sodium fluoaluminate (mined)	
Sodium nitrate	Unless use is restricted to no more than 20% of the crop’s total nitrogen requirement; use in spirulina production is unrestricted until October 21, 2005.
Strychnine	
Tobacco dust (nicotine sulfate)	