

Anonymous Anonymous

I support the proposed rule changes: 1. The addition of low-acyl gellan gum, a food additive used as a thickener, gelling agent, and stabilizer. 2. The addition of paper-based crop planting aids to the National List, along with a definition of paper-based crop planting aids. If finalized, low-acyl gellan gum would be allowed as an ingredient in processed organic products, and paper-based crop planting aids would be allowed in organic crop production. 2. The correction of a spelling error on the National List to change “wood resin” to “wood rosin”. I am an owner/operator of a small farm, with tight margins. Using the paperpot transplanter/paperpot system has significantly increased my ability to get my planting done in time in June, without the added costs of part-time workers that I can't afford. In addition, I can find no safety concerns popping up in online searches for low acyl gellan gum, and did find the following study which gives me assurance that this substance should not be considered a danger: <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2018.5296>. I am very, very conservative on additives, so do not make this recommendation lightly. This technology has been an enormous help to small farmers, who can then go on to become bigger, or simply more productive and successful at the scale they are at.