



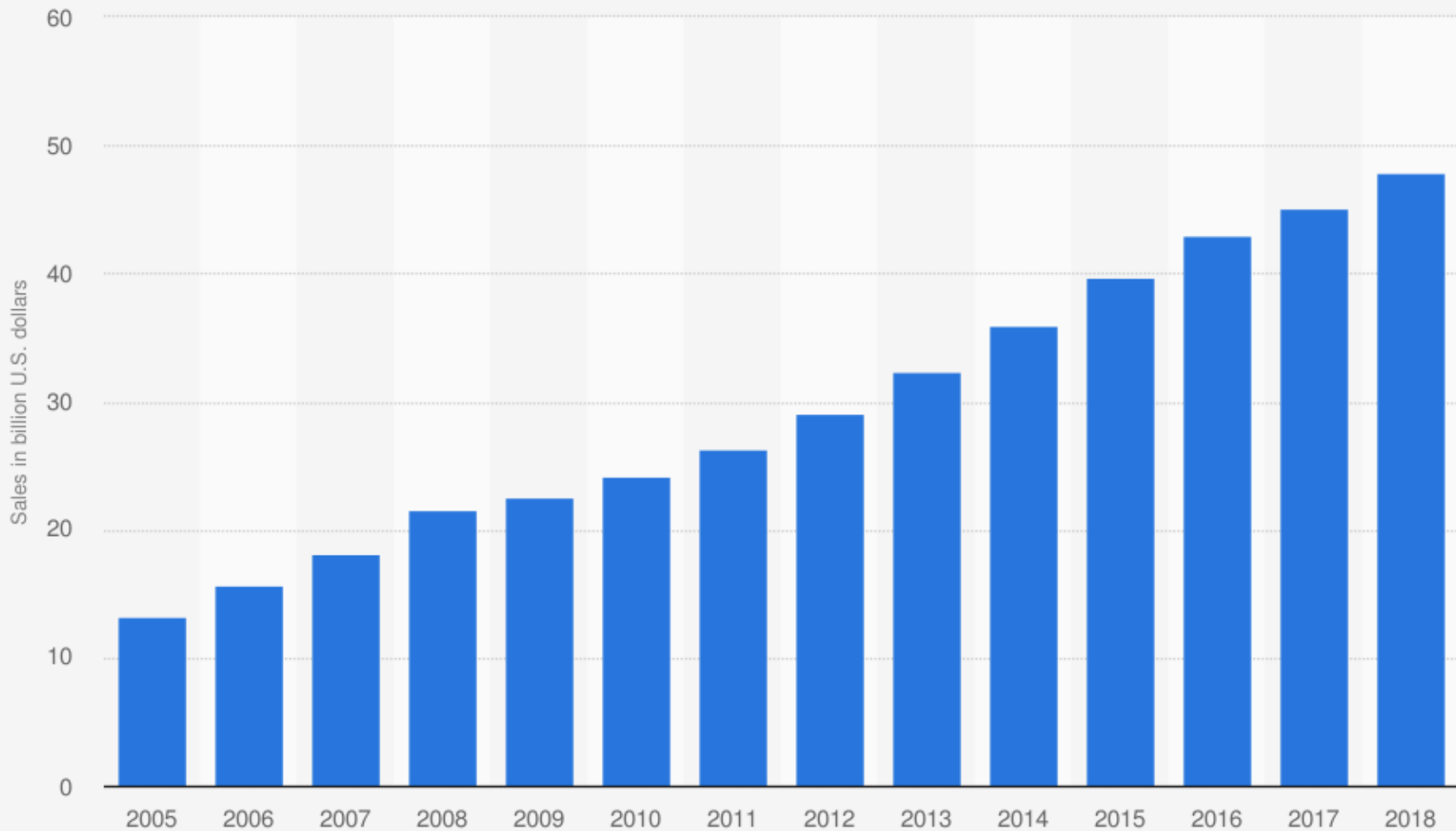
VERMONT ORGANIC FARMERS

GREGG STEVENS

CERTIFICATION SPECIALIST (DIVERSIFIED OPERATIONS)

Certified Organic, Locally Grown

Organic food sales in the United States from 2005 to 2018 (in billion U.S. dollars)



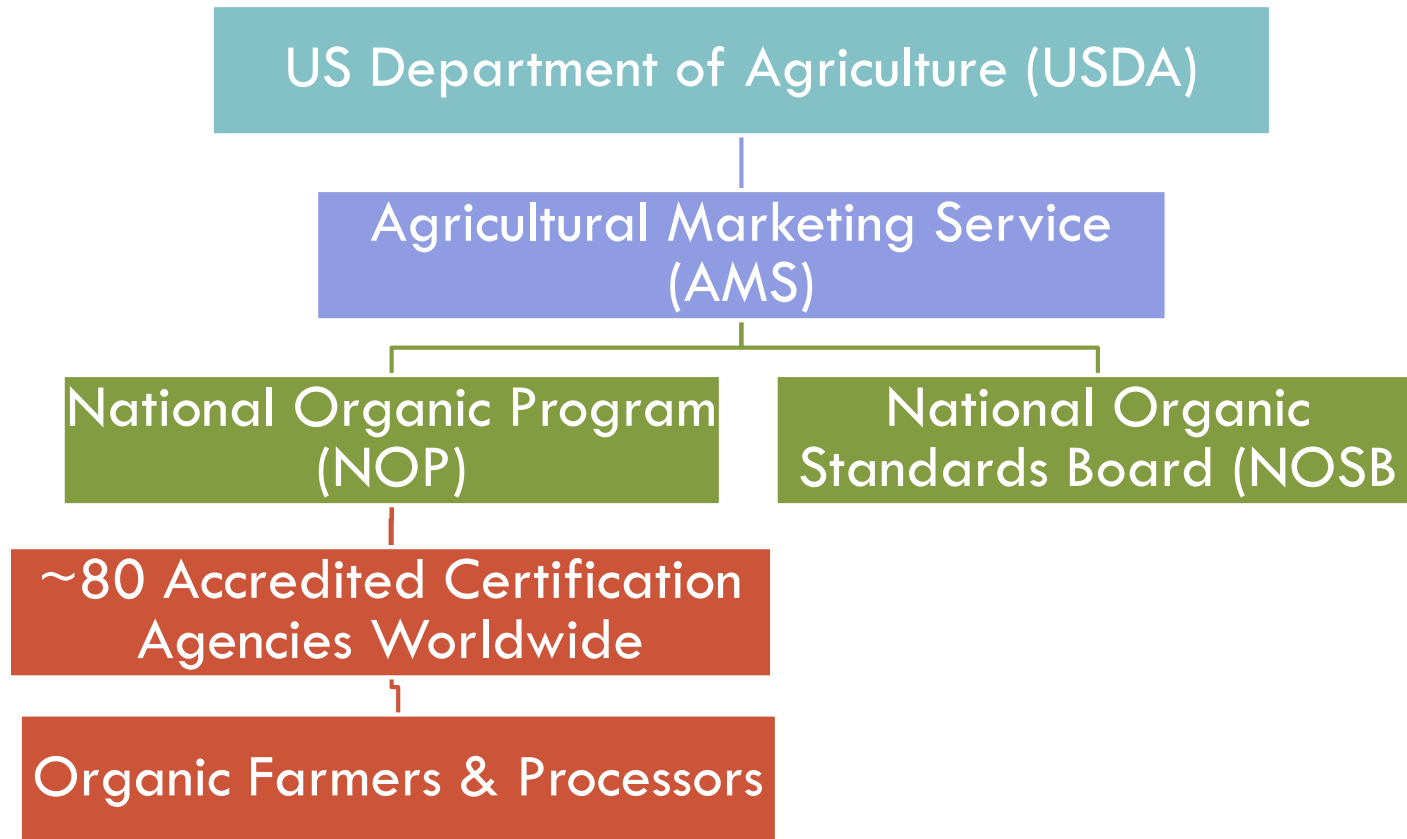
Source
Organic Trade Association
© Statista 2019

Additional Information:
United States; Organic Trade Association; 2005 to 2018

Organic market

- ❑ Organic food sales in the United States rose 5.9% in 2018 to \$47.9 billion
- ❑ Organic food sales made up 5.7% of overall U.S. food sales, which rose 2.3% in 2018.
- ❑ The U.S. organic market grew 6.3% to \$52.5 billion as non-food sales increased nearly 11% to reach \$4.6 billion.
- ❑ 82% of US consumers have purchased an organic product in the last year.

National Organic Program Structure



~47 Accredited Certifiers in US

- VOF only certifies operations in Vermont.
- Many other certifiers certify operations in Vermont and across the US.
- Shop around!



Marketing

- Certifier logo or USDA Organic logo or both can be used once certified.



Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) & Vermont Organic Farmers (VOF)

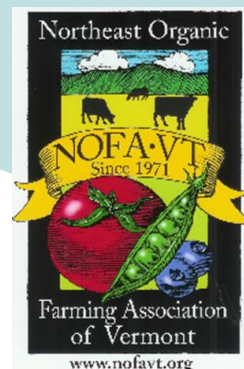


NOFA-VT Membership and VOF Certification

Producers certified through VOF do not automatically become members of NOFA-VT!

NOFA-VT membership
(1,500 members,
5,000 mailing list)

VOF certified producers
(775 in 2019)



Annual Organic Certification Cycle



Scopes

All certified organic products fall under one of four scopes:

- ▣ Crops
- ▣ Livestock
- ▣ Processing/Handling
- ▣ Wildcrafting

Land Requirements

- 3 year history verification
 - Organic crops must be harvested from land where the last application of a substance prohibited in certified organic production was no less than three years prior to the harvest date.

Land Requirements

- Neighboring land use verification or...
- Buffers
 - 15' to residential properties
 - 30' of dense hedge row to conventional production or utility corridors
 - 50' of grass to conventional production or utility corridors
 - Buffer required differ among certifiers!

Land Requirements

- Crop rotation
- Soil management
- Nutrient management
- Biodiversity



Container Growing

Organic?



Container Growing



real
Organic
project

Container Growing

- VOF will not certify hydroponic, aeroponic or container grown crops.



- Check with your certifier!

Inputs: Planting Stock

- An organic crop may be produced from non-organic, untreated planting stock if organic stock is not commercially available.



Commercial Availability:

- The ability to obtain an organic input in an appropriate:
 - ▣ Form
 - ▣ Quality
 - ▣ Quantity
 - ▣ Variety (growing habits, days to maturity, insect and disease resistance, flavor, color, moisture, chemical or nutrient profiles of the variety of the harvested crop, vigor or yield, regional adaptation)
 - ▣ Price **cannot** be a consideration for determination of commercial availability.

Inputs: Planting Stock

- An organic crop may be produced from non-organic, untreated planting stock if organic stock is not commercially available.
- Untreated planting stock may have had prohibited substances applied during production, but may not have had prohibited substances applied **post-harvest**.

Inputs: Fertilizers and Pest Control

- Generics
- Synthetics vs non-synthetics
- Branded inputs



▼ Gypsum (calcium sulphate)



RULING BODY: COR
STATUS: Allowed with Restrictions
CLASSIFICATION: Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments
ORIGIN:
DESCRIPTION: See CALCIUM SULPHATE (GYPSUM).
RULE REFERENCE:
REVISION DATE: 01/10/2018

▶ Gypsum 1/4" Minus Ag Fines



▼ Gypsum By-products



RULING BODY: NOP
STATUS: Prohibited
CLASSIFICATION: Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments
ORIGIN: Synthetic
DESCRIPTION: Gypsum produced as a by-product of superphosphate manufacture (the reaction of rock phosphate and sulfuric acid), from precipitation of sulfur dioxide gas with limestone, or from dry-wall rejects is prohibited.
RULE REFERENCE: 205.105(a)
REVISION DATE: 01/10/2018

▼ Gypsum – mined source



RULING BODY: NOP
STATUS: Allowed
CLASSIFICATION: Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments
ORIGIN: Nonsynthetic
DESCRIPTION: Calcium sulfate; only mined forms are acceptable. See also GYPSUM BY-PRODUCTS and MINED MINERALS – UNPROCESSED.
RULE REFERENCE: 205.203(d)(2)
REVISION DATE: 01/10/2018

Search Legend

Status

United States - National Organic Program (NOP)



- Allowed under the U.S. NOP organic standards



- Allowed With Restrictions under the U.S. NOP organic standards



- Prohibited or Removed under the U.S. NOP organic standards

Canada - Canada Organic Regime (COR)



- Allowed under the Canada COR standards



- Allowed With Restrictions under the Canada COR standards



- Prohibited or Removed under the Canada COR standards

Classifications

Crops



- Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments



- Crop Pest, Weed, and Disease Control



- Crop Management Tools and Production Aids

Livestock



- Livestock Feed Ingredients



- Livestock Health Care



- Livestock External Parasiticides and Pesticides



- Livestock Management Tools and Production Aids

Processing



- Processing Agricultural Ingredients and Processing Aids



- Processing Sanitizers and Cleaners



- Processing Packaging and Containers



- Processing Non-agricultural Ingredients and Processing Aids



- Processing Pest Controls

Pay attention to the symbols!

Manure

- Does not need to be from certified organic livestock
- Cannot contain prohibited substances
- Must be incorporated into the soil at least:
 - 120 days before harvesting any crop whose edible portion touches the soil
 - 90 days before harvest for crops whose edible portion does not touch the soil.

Compost

- Manure must be composted and records kept that verify that all of the feedstock in the compost pile underwent an increase in temperature to at least 131°F and remained there for a minimum of 3 days.
- Purchased compost and compost-based products (including potting mixes) must be reviewed and approved.

Organic input calculator

□ North Country Organics

<https://norganics.com/index-2/calculation-pages/>

Calculation Pages

These pages are operational forms that calculate application rates based on soil test data. Enjoy!

IMPORTANT NOTE: The application rates that these forms suggest are for correcting imbalances only and do not include fertilization for crop removal. Please refer to our [Application Guide](#) which provides fertility programs for various crops.

Try the STEP BY STEP if you're not sure where to begin

STEP BY STEP Soil Test Interpretation

Lime calculation

Phosphorus (P) calculation

Potassium (K) calculation

Calcium (Ca) calculation

Magnesium (Mg) calculation

Nutrient content of soil amendments

NOTE: the values in this form are informational only and not guaranteed analyses. Zero values may indicate a lack of data.

Select a material

Blood meal

Macro nutrients expressed in percent by weight

Nitrogen (N)

13

Phosphate (P₂O₅)

0.75

Potash (K₂O)

0.45

Sulfur (S)

0.5

Calcium (Ca)

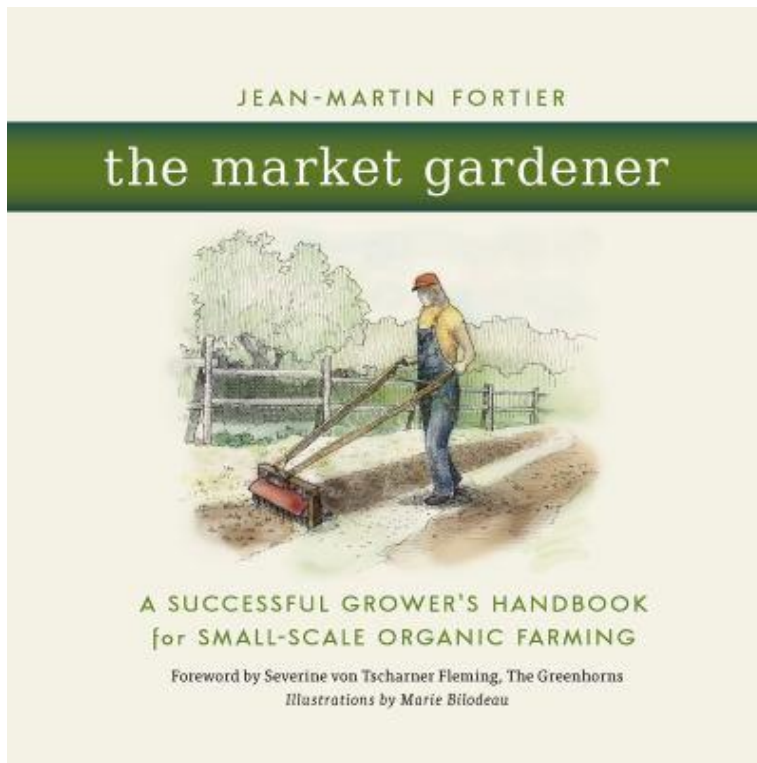
1.3

Magnesium (Mg)

0.02

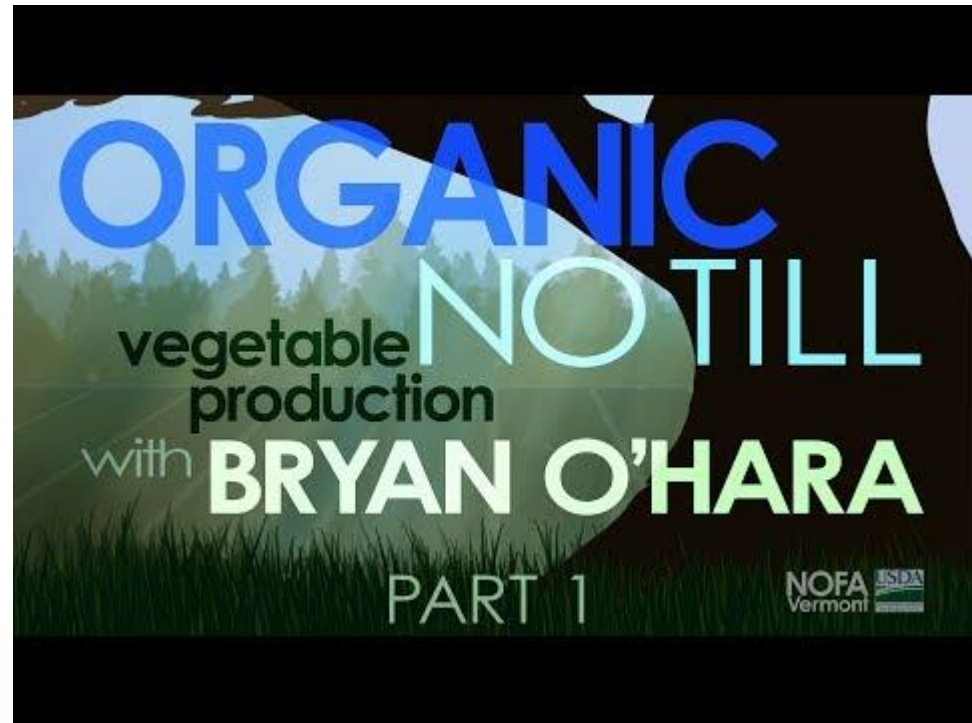
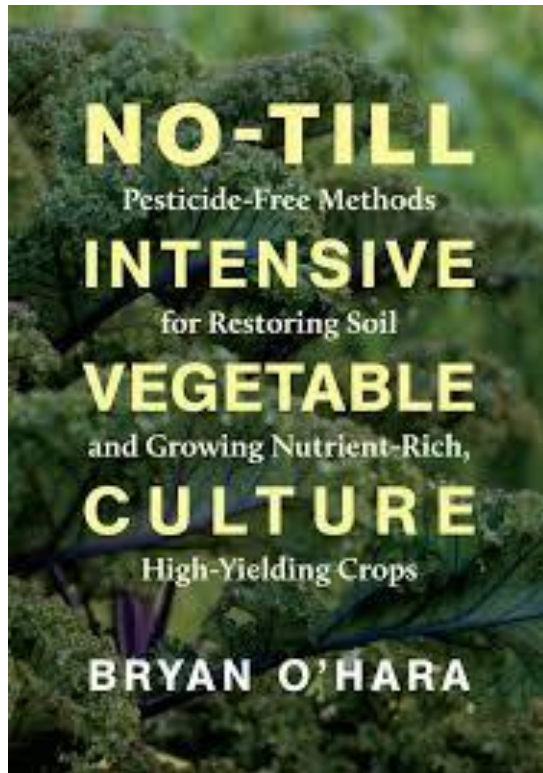
Organic weed control

- Shallow tillage and silage tarps



Organic weed control

- Organic no-till



 **YouTube** TheNOFAVT

Organic weed control

- No “biodegradeable” mulch films are currently allowed for use in organic production.
- VOF requires black plastic to be removed at the end of the growing season for annual crops.



Records



- All farmers and processors must keep records that demonstrate compliance with the NOP Standards
- Fully disclose all activities and transactions of the certified operation
- Be maintained for not less than 5 years
- Readily auditable

Tastes great.



Certified **Organic,**
Locally Grown.

Additional Information:

- www.nofavt.org/vof
- www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic

- gregg@nofavt.org
- 802-434-3821

Learn more about the benefits of local and organic
at www.nofavt.org/why-organic or 802-434-3821