

Organics and Bee Better

USDA Certified Organic farming operations have a head-start in achieving certification under Bee Better Certified (BBC), as many of the practices in each certification overlap. Below is a brief summary of: practices that are required for both BBC and USDA Organic Certification, BBC practices that help meet the USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) Biodiversity Guidelines, and USDA-approved organic practices that may require adjustment to meet BBC standards.

Organic Practices that Meet Bee Better Standards:

Bee Better Certified	USDA Certified Organic Farming
Banned use of Soil Fumigants	✓
Banned use of nitroguanidine neonicotinoids	✓
Banned use of GMOs that express pesticides	✓
Preventative non-pesticide management	✓
Detailed record keeping	✓

Bee Better Standards that Help Meet NOP Biodiversity Guidelines:

Bee Better Certified	Meets NOP Biodiversity Guidelines By:
5% of farm acreage must be designated pollinator habitat	Providing habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects creates opportunities for increased on-farm biodiversity
Bloom- minimum of 3 species; diversity of bloom time; native, pollinator-attractive plants	Supporting native species and habitat
Invasive or noxious species cannot be considered part of pollinator habitat	Minimizing invasive species

Organic Farming Practices not Allowed Under Bee Better Certified:

Bee Better Certified	USDA Certified Organic Farming
Some organic-approved pesticides banned due to high toxicity to honeybees *	All organic approved pesticides allowed
Must develop Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for how to reduce impact of tillage on ground-nesting bees	Tillage**

*Use the online Bee Precaution Tool to determine toxicity of pesticides: <http://www2.ipm.ucanr.edu/bee precaution/>

**The NRCS Organic Farming Handbook provides additional guidance on non-chemical, no-till weed management techniques: nrcs.usda.gov/organic