



ISDA Alternative Crop Rotation Request Form

The NOP regulations require that certified organic crop operations practice crop rotation. For the purposes of this form, the focus is on crop rotation as it pertains to annual crops. Crop rotation for annual crops is not optional, it is required. Crop rotation is specified in the regulations at §§205.2, 205.203, 205.205, and 205.206. Certified organic producers must be able to demonstrate that their crop rotation plans are in compliance with the NOP Rule. Crop rotation is defined in the regulations at:

§205.2 – Definitions – Crop rotation.

The practice of alternating the annual crops grown on a specific field in a planned pattern or sequence in successive crop years so that crops of the same species or family are not grown repeatedly without interruption on the same field. Perennial cropping systems employ means such as alley cropping, intercropping, and hedgerows to introduce biological diversity in lieu of crop rotation.

In addition to the NOP Regulations, ISDA’s crop rotation policy for annual crops includes:

- Allowance of 2 years of the same annual crop family to be planted without interruption when part of a larger compliant crop rotation plan.
- Fallow periods, of at least 12 months, can be considered as an interruption as part of a crop rotation plan.

Given some unique growing conditions and management constraints, ISDA is willing to consider alternate crop rotation plans that do not fit in the current policy noted above. Namely, if an operation wants to plant 3 years of the same annual crop family without interruption, we are willing to consider it as part of a much larger and diverse crop rotation plan. If you are not requesting an alternate plan, you do not need to submit this form.

If you would like to have an alternate crop rotation plan reviewed by ISDA, please complete all pages of this form* and submit to ISDA via mail, email, or fax. **The plan must be submitted and approved by ISDA BEFORE planting the third year of the same annual crop family.** If an approved plan is not submitted and approved before planting, compliance action may be taken. After you submit a plan it will be reviewed and officially approved or denied by ISDA and returned to you for your records. All crop rotations will be evaluated for compliance with the regulations, as it is not just the time period that ensures compliance, but various management activities. **In addition, please note at this time:**

- ISDA will not allow 4 years of the same annual crop family to be planted without interruption.
- Fallow periods of less than 12 months will not be considered an interruption.

This form should be kept as part of your organic records. Your crop rotation plan will be evaluated at each inspection.

Part 1: ISDA Certified Operation Information:

Company Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Name of Organic Manager: _____

Primary Phone and Email: _____

**If producers would like to submit their plan in a different format, it is acceptable as long as all information on this form is included in the alternate format.*



ISDA Alternative Crop Rotation Request Form



Examples of Common Crop Families*

Crop Family Common Name	Example of Crops	Scientific Family
Buckwheat	Buckwheat	<i>Polygonaceae</i>
Daisy	Safflower	<i>Asteraceae</i>
Grass	Barley, Corn, Oats, Rye, Sorghum, Spelt, Teff, Triticale, and Wheat	<i>Poaceae</i>
Legume	Alfalfa, Beans, Peas, Clover, and Lentils	<i>Fabaceae</i>
Mustard	Cabbage, Canola, Kale, Mustard, Rutabaga, and Turnip	<i>Brassica</i>
Nightshade	Tomatoes, Peppers, and Potatoes	<i>Solanaceae</i>

*This list doesn't cover everything, so ensure that you do your own research when planning your rotation or contact the ISDA with any crop rotation related questions.

Part 2: Explanation of requested alternate plan:

Explain the crop rotation plan you would like to have approved. In order to determine compliance, we need to know the long-term plan. We understand that this is a projection and that your plan may change. If your plan changes at some point, just contact ISDA so that your crop rotation plan can be re-evaluated. Please complete the chart below in its entirety:

YEAR	CROP GROWN	INTERRUPTION (e.g. cover crop, fallow, etc.)
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		



ISDA Alternative Crop Rotation Request Form



Part 3: Compliance of requested alternate plan:

Please explain how your proposed alternate plan will ensure that each of the requirements of §205.205 are met:

(a) How will your plan maintain or improve soil organic matter content?

(b) How will your plan provide for pest management in annual and perennial crops?

(c) How will your plan manage deficient or excess plant nutrients?

(d) How will your plan provide erosion control?

Part 4: Affirmation and Signatures

I affirm that the information on this form and associated attachments is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Any changes to the plan listed above will be submitted to the ISDA for review prior to implementation.

Organic Operation Representative's Name

Organic Operation Representative's Signature

Date

ISDA Representative's Approval Stamp: _____