



**Notification:** 2203  
**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
**Category:** Update to the Australia Organic Standard (ACOS) 2021v1  
**Title:** Annex Update

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## Background

Following the 2021 update there were certain changes within the body of the ACOS that required further clarification regarding synthetic structures such as weed matting, mulches, fleeces and silage wrapping.

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### Point 4.2.4.

**Remove:** For synthetic structure coverings, mulches, fleeces, insect netting and silage wrapping, only products based on polyethylene, polypropylene or other polycarbonates are permitted, and only where use is formally approved by the CB. These must be removed from the soil after use and must not be burned on certified areas of land. Note, polyvinylchloride-based products are not permitted for use on certified land.

**Replace with:** Only products based on polyethylene, polypropylene or other polycarbonates are permitted for synthetic structure coverings, mulches, weed matting, fleeces, insect netting and silage wrapping. These must be removed from the soil after use and must not be burned on certified areas of land. Note, polyvinylchloride-based products are not permitted for use on certified land.

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### Point 4.2.5.

**Remove:** Weed matting is allowed where its use is formally approved by the CB, but must not be incorporated into the soil unless fully natural and degradable. Where weed matting is used, soil biology must be protected and/or enhanced by such practice. Plastics shall be removed at the end of the production season or end of use. Sheet plastic mulching may be used for certain composting activities listed in section 4.3 and in cases of soil solarisation practices. Other uses require written confirmation from the CB for permission prior to use and shall be permitted in restricted instances only.

**Replace with:** Solid, non-woven synthetic material sheets for weed matting and mulch require written approval from the CB and shall only be permitted when necessary. Plastics must be removed at the end of the production season or end of use. Sheet plastic mulching may be used for certain composting activities listed in section 4.3 and in cases of soil solarisation practices without the need for CB approval.

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**END**