

# Brief Introduction to Requirements for Organic Wild Collection

Acc. to the European Regulation (EC) 834/07\*, European Regulation (EU) 848/18\*\*, the US National Organic Program (NOP), JAS, and CERES Policies

## 1. What organic wild collection means:

- ❖ Must be sustainable
- ❖ Must not damage the environment
- ❖ Must be performed in unpolluted areas and on clean places
- ❖ Must be well documented so that the product can be traced back to its origin.

## 2. Sustainability:

- ✓ **Overcollection** of the species must be **avoided**
- ✓ Red list or otherwise **threatened species** must not be collected
- ✓ **Damage to the plants** must be reduced to a minimum
- ✓ As a **general rule**, not more than 60% of flowers and leaves, not more than 70% of fruits, and not more than 5% of roots or barks must be collected from each site; this percentage may be higher for some species, but much lower for others
- ✓ The responsible entity must set up detailed **collection rules** for all species. These rules must include criteria that can be verified in the field.

## 3. Environmental damage:

- ✓ Collection must not destroy or threaten the **habitat or feed for other organisms**
- ✓ Collectors must not leave behind litter, contribute to forest fire, illegal hunting, etc.

## 4. Unpolluted areas and places:

Collection must not take place

- ✓ Close to bigger **cities, industrial centres**, and nuclear facilities
- ✓ Close to **roads**:

Vehicles per 5 minutes	< 3	3 – 15	16 – 50	51 – 100	> 100
Distance to be kept (m)	none	25	50	100	200

- ✓ On **conventional crop or grassland**
- ✓ In forests or woodlots where **forest insecticides** have been used during the past 3 years
- ✓ Within **20 m** from conventional fields where pesticides are sprayed (50 m in case of fruit orchards with high pressure sprayers)
- ✓ Close to **litter dumps** (20 to 100 m, according to the size of the dump), railways, and other local sources of pollution.

## 5. Collectors training and supervision:

- ✓ **Collectors** must be adequately **trained** concerning harvesting techniques, maximum harvest quantities (see 2), environmental damage (see 3), suitable collection places (see 4)
- ✓ Implementation of these rules must be **monitored** by the responsible entity; this can be achieved best, when collection takes place in organised groups.

## 6. Records, traceability, and labels:

- ✓ The responsible company or person must present an **organic management plan**
- ✓ A detailed **map** (preferably 1 : 50.000, but not smaller than 1 : 250.000) of the collection region must be presented; collection places, wholesale points, and critical areas (see 4) must be marked on the map, including GPS coordinates for relevant places.
- ✓ **Records** on purchased, stored, transported, and sold **quantities** must be kept at all levels
- ✓ Operators should strive for **traceability** at least back to the level of local collection points
- ✓ All stored, transported, and sold products must be adequately **labelled**, labels including information on product, quantity, origin, packing date, organic condition, and certifier

- ✓ In addition, **JAS** requires "**grading**" records: before selling products with the JAS logo, the producer must double-check and record fulfilment of JAS standards.

### 7. Post-harvest handling, cleanness:

- ✓ Contact with **polluting substances** must be avoided during post-harvest management (transport, drying, freezing, storing, etc.)
- ✓ Possible pollutants include detergents, disinfectants, rodenticides, fumigants, wood preservatives, etc.
- ✓ During harvest and at all post-harvest levels, products must be handled under **adequate sanitary conditions**.

### 8. Preventive and precautionary measures

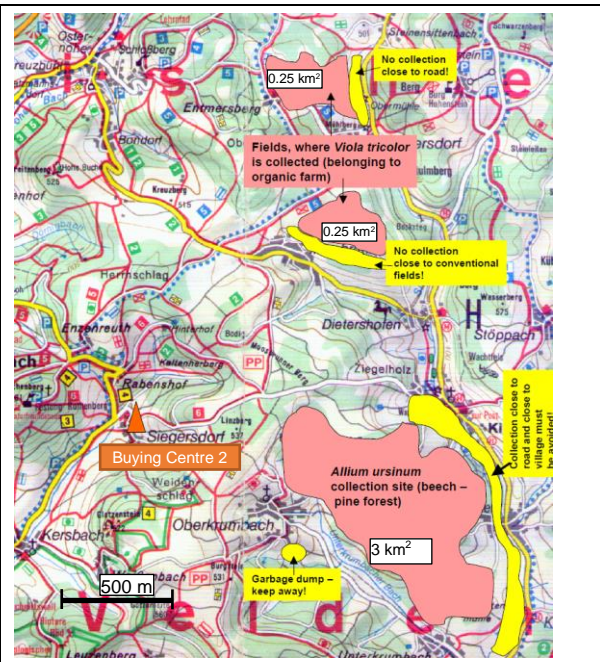
**This is a new requirement under the general rules. The new regulation (EU) 848/18 highlights the importance of operators' responsibilities:**

- ✓ Operators should take preventive measures at every stage of production, preparation and distribution, where appropriate, to ensure the preservation of biodiversity and soil quality, to prevent and control pests and diseases and to avoid negative effects on the environment, animal health and plant health. They should also take, where appropriate, proportionate precautionary measures which are under their control to avoid contamination with products or substances that are not authorised for use in organic production in accordance with this Regulation and to avoid commingling organic, in-conversion and non-organic products.

### 9. Terminology used by CERES

Terms like "collection area", "collection site", "collector", "buying centre" etc. are used differently by different persons. The following is the terminology used by CERES. This is important for avoiding any misunderstandings during the application and certification process:

- a. On this (fictitious) map, the pink areas make up the "**collection area**". The yellow areas are the "risky places", from which collection should be avoided. Considering the scale indicated on the map (500 m), the size of the 3 collection areas would be approx.  $3 + 0.25 + 0.25 \approx 3.5 \text{ km}^2$ .



<p>b. What is inside the red square (i.e. more or less the area you can oversee from one point), is what we call a "<b>collection site</b>".</p>	
<p>c. These are two "<b>collectors</b>" or "pickers". Some people say "collectors", when they refer to a "buying centre" (see (d) below), or "groups of collectors". Please stick to <b>our</b> terminology, when applying to CERES!</p>	
<p>d. This is what we call a "<b>buying centre</b>". Other terms commonly used: "collection point", "wholesale point", "collection centre", "buyout location", etc.</p>	

\* **Note:** Inside the EU, the Regulation must be applied in its strictest sense. Products from third countries outside the European Union are considered "equivalent". Please refer to the CERES homepage for our Policy 4.1.1, which, combined with Regulations (CE) 834/07 and (CE) 889/08 and our other policies, make up the "CERES equivalent standard".

\*\* Note: Reg. (EU) 848/18 standard on wild collection is not very specific. Only Annex II, Part 1, 2.2 refers to specific rules concerning the collection of wild plants. Policy 4-1-4 intends to close this gap and defines in detail the conditions under which wild collection operators can be certified as "organic", according to Reg. (EU) 848/18.

**!** Please be aware that this is only a selection of essential requirements of the organic standards, meant as an introduction. The operator, of course, must learn about and meet all requirements of the respective standard.