

Soil amendments or nutrient additives may be regulated as garbage. (7CFR330.400) if they are derived from plant or plant products such as composted forest or garden litter, wood or food waste.

What is not soil?

Materials **free of organic matter**, such as: pure sand, clay (laterites, bentonite, china clay, attapulgite, tierrafino, etc.), talc, rocks, volcanic pumice, chalk, salt, iron ore, **and gravel**. These materials must be mined or collected so they are free of organic material, such as roots, grasses, plant debris, or leaf litter.

Fertilizers or other additives with the exception of those derived from composted animal and plant products that contain minerals, bone meal, and crushed grain **are not soil**. Grains in the mix, however, must be processed to prevent sprouting, or they remain regulated. Additional information for regulating imported grains is at the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR **PART 319—FOREIGN QUARANTINE NOTICES**): <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=b66ad794ef9bd21c71d62b90480bd8b1&rgn=div5&view=text&node=7:5.1.1.1.6&idno=7> . Specific regulations include - corn relatives (7 CFR 319.24 & 41); rice relatives (7 CFR 319.55); and wheat relatives (7 CFR 319.59).

What may be considered soil or may have organic matter in it but PPQ determined is exempt from USDA soil regulations?

The following items are exempt:

- Peat, cosmetic mud and other mud products from fresh water **estuaries** or the earth's upper surface, if processed to a uniform consistency, and **free of plant parts or seeds**
- Volcanic rock, pumice, geologic samples, drilling cores, or mud, if mined so it is free of organic material
- Any sediment, mud, or rock from the **oceans** of the earth

NOTE: All shipments may be inspected at a US port to identify the material and verify it is free of pests and prohibited contaminants. A shipment may be refused entry or require treatment based upon inspection findings.