

Organic Honey – Hive sites and foraging areas

Hive site assessment

Under the Organic Standards Bee Hives used for organic honey must be located in foraging areas sited at least 5 kms from potentially contaminating sources. Use the following checklist to assess each of your hive sites.

Each hive site must be **at least 5 kilometers** from all of the following:

- Urban areas (towns, villages, localities etc.)
- Industrial areas (mine sites, quarries, foundries, timber mills, factories etc.)
- Chemically farmed horticultural and cropping areas (sprayed and chemically fertilised orchards, pastures and crops)
- Genetically engineered crops (cotton etc.)
- Waste sites (town dumps, tips etc.)
- Agricultural sites (shearing sheds, feedlots, dairy sheds, composting sites, packing sheds etc.)

Foraging areas

Floral sources for organic honey do not necessarily have to be from certified farming areas. As long as the hives are located in accordance with the above checklist, the following landscapes may be used for honey production.

- Certified or “In conversion” organic land
- State Forests, Reserves and National Parks
- Extensive grazing country where no chemically farmed cropping or horticulture occurs
- Rangelands where no chemically farmed cropping occurs
- Arid zones
- Vacant crown land and crown land that is under a grazing lease

Please note that for some international markets additional criteria apply. If you are planning to export honey to the organic UK market then additional criteria will apply. Contact Australian Certified Organic for more information.