

USDA BioPreferred Program Certified Partner Fact Sheet



Our BioCommunity Continues to Expand and Grow

Thanks to the support of the USDA's BioPreferred® program and the ingenuity of American manufacturers, the U.S. bioeconomy is thriving – supporting millions of jobs, driving economic growth and expanding opportunities for biobased products.



What is the USDA BioPreferred Program?

The BioPreferred Program is an initiative led by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which focuses on the **development and expansion of markets for biobased products**. The program was created by the 2002 Farm Bill (and recently reauthorized by the 2018 Farm Bill).

What are BioBased products?

Biobased products are **derived from plants and other renewable agricultural, marine and forestry materials**.

Biobased products generally **provide an alternative to conventional petroleum derived products** and include a variety of offerings such as lubricants, detergents, inks, fertilizers, containers and bioplastics.

What are the benefits of BioBased products?

Biobased products provide **all the same benefits as conventional products**: they are cost-effective, readily

available and perform as well or better than their petroleum-containing counterparts.

For the environment, they help us increase our use of renewable resources while decreasing our use of non-renewable resources such as petroleum.

For the economy, according to a report from the USDA back in July 2019, biobased products contributed \$459 billion to the U.S. economy in 2016 and both directly and indirectly supported 4.6 million jobs.

What is the overall purpose of the USDA Certified BioBased Product label?

The USDA Certified Biobased Product label is designed to provide **useful information to consumers about the biobased content of the product**. The label assures a consumer that the product contains a USDA-verified amount of renewable biological ingredients.

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Horticultural Containers for Greenhouse and Nursery

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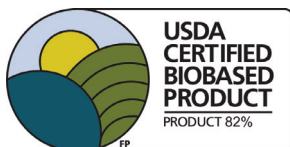
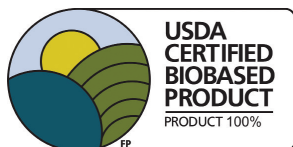
What are the criteria for earning certification?

Products need to meet a minimum biobased content set by the USDA. The manufacturers of these products *must test the biobased content at an independent, third party laboratory.*

Since this is a governmental body, are federal agencies required to purchase biobased products?

Federal law and the Federal Acquisition Regulation *directs that all federal agencies purchase biobased products* in categories identified by the USDA. To date, the USDA has identified 139 categories (e.g. cleaners, carpet, lubricants, paints) of biobased products for which agencies and their contractors have mandatory purchasing requirements. For more information or to view a catalog of approved products, visit www.biopREFERRED.gov/BioPreferred.

What HC fiber products have been certified and what is their biobased makeup?



- Organic EcoGrow® Fiber Pots and Trays - *100% biobased content.*
- FiberGrow® Horticultural Containers - *82% biobased content.*
- FiberGrow® WaxTough Pots and Hanging Baskets - *82% biobased content.*
- Fiber Packing Products - *82% biobased content.*



“Products from The HC Companies are contributing to an ever-expanding marketplace that adds value to renewable agriculture commodities, creates jobs in rural communities and decreases our reliance on petroleum.”

Vernell Thompson, USDA BioPreferred Program

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From grower to gardener, improving our world.

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Leader in
Horticultural
Containers