



# CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLY GROWN®

Distinguish Your Brand with the Most Comprehensive Standard for Sustainable Agriculture

## The Value of Certified Sustainably Grown®

Certified Sustainably Grown is a robust claim that supports your brand, helping you stand out in the marketplace and providing you access to expanded markets. The detailed framework provides a complete roadmap to build resilience while satisfying the growing and profitable market for food that is grown to the highest standards of environmental stewardship and social responsibility. It showcases the efforts of farmers to address today's most important challenges such as water conservation, pollinator protection and climate adaptation.

Certified Sustainably Grown is a respected, cost-effective option for achieving recognition without long waiting periods or licensing, marketing, or per-box fees. The certification is applicable to agricultural crop production operations of all sizes around the world, including both conventional and organic. It is recognized by major retailers including Costco, Walmart, Aldi, Lidl and more.

Producers whose operations are Certified Sustainably Grown can also make complimentary claims, all of which are built into the program requirements.

## Go Above and Beyond with Trailblazer Claims

Certified producers have the option to pursue additional "Trailblazer" recognition demonstrating leadership in the following social and environmental categories:

- Trailblazer
- Regenerative Farming
- Living Wage
- Worker Empowerment
- Community Development
- Biodiversity Champion



## Why Get Certified With SCS?

Join the growing number of farmers, grocery retailers, and food and beverage companies that use Certified Sustainably Grown to recognize innovation in sustainability, map risk in supply chains, and identify opportunities to improve practices. Certification by a neutral third-party appeal to buyers and consumers and reinforces brand value. Once certified, you can choose to use the Sustainably Grown certification logo on your products, and you can integrate the Certified Sustainably Grown claim language into your brand communications to reinforce your brand's sustainable image.

## STEPS TO CERTIFICATION

---

1

### Apply for Certification

Fill out the SCS application form and sign the SCS Professional Services Agreement.

4

### Receive an Evaluation Audit

The SCS auditor conducts an on-site audit, which includes an opening meeting, physical inspection of the site, review of documents and records, interviews with personnel, and a closing meeting.

2

### Approve the Work Order

SCS generates a work order describing the audit scope and costs. Your approval sets the process in motion.

5

### Review and Respond to Audit Findings

The auditor prepares and delivers a detailed audit report. You prepare a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to respond to any non-conformities noted, listing corrective actions and evidence of implementation.

3

### Complete a Self-Assessment

Complete a Self-Assessment Checklist to help prepare you for the audit. SCS reviews your checklist and supporting documentation to help you identify gaps in conformance and areas for improvement.

6

### Earn Certification

The independent SCS assessor reviews the audit report and CAP, and then makes the certification decision. If certification is granted, you are issued a formal certificate, along with the SCS Kingfisher certification mark and logo use guidelines.



For more information contact:

**Kevin Warner**

Director, ESG Certification

+1.510.407.0091 direct

kwarner@scsglobalservices.com

