

Oils, Honey & Spices



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Kirkland Signature Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Costco has a long history of supporting smallholder olive farms. Since 1996, we have directly supported thousands of smallholder farms in Tuscany to make high-quality Kirkland Signature™ Toscano PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) Extra Virgin Olive Oil. More information can be found in this [Tuscan Olive Oil video](#).

PGI signifies that:

- Every grower is registered with the program.
- The number of trees and yields on each property are verified.
- Each bottle is numbered in Tuscany under the strict guidelines of PGI to ensure traceability, authenticity and quality.

Kirkland Signature 100% Italian Extra Virgin Olive Oil, sourced from outside Tuscany, is certified by an independent third-party organization, with each bottle carrying an ISO-certified sticker, providing proof that the oil is authentic and fully traceable to the source. More information can be found in this [Italian Olive Oil video](#).

We continue to expand our certified single origin olive oil offerings from Greece, Italy and Spain. More information can be found in this [Spanish Olive Oil video](#).

Costco is a member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and is committed to ensuring that the palm oil, palm kernel oil, palm kernel expeller and other palm-based derivatives and fractions (“palm oil”) contained in Kirkland Signature products are responsibly sourced.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Palm Oil

15 LIFE ON LAND



Our goal is that all palm oil used in Kirkland Signature products is 100% RSPO certified (or equivalent), with a preference for physical palm. For a product to be RSPO certified, it must come from producers that have met the RSPO Principles and Criteria, which cover the most significant environmental and social impacts of palm oil production. These include the immediate inputs to production, such as seed, chemical and water, as well as social impacts related to on-farm labor and community relations. They also apply to environmental protections, such as no new plantings on peatlands, burning forests and clearing new areas.

According to supplier-reported data, here's a look at how we have worked with suppliers to meet this goal:

RSPO-Certified Palm Five Year View

Reporting Year ¹	RSPO Certified - Physical Palm Oil ²	RSPO Certified - Book & Claim Palm Oil Credits	RSPO Certified ²
2018	77.6%	4.3%	81.9%
2019	89.3% ³	7.2%	96.4%
2020	96.7%	0.8%	97.5%
2021	98.6%	0.03%	98.6%
2022	99.2%	0.8%	100%
2023	99.8% ⁴	0.2%	100%

(1) Per RSPO reporting requirements, the reporting/calendar year represents that year's data, which is reported in May of the following year. For example, in May 2023, we reported 2022 calendar year data.

(2) "Physical Palm Oil", which is our preference, comes from supply chains that are Identity Preserved, Segregated or Mass Balance, whereas "RSPO Certified" may include the Book and Claim System.

(3) Restated to reflect data correction.

(4) 9.2% of our "Physical Palm Oil" was segregated or identity preserved.

More information can be found in our [Palm Oil Policy](#), the Annual Communication of Progress (ACOP) 2021 filed with [RSPO](#) and on the "Environmental Impacts & Land Stewardship" page of our [Merchandising section](#).



Kirkland Signature Soy-Based Oils

Costco understands that soy is a major driver of tropical deforestation in countries such as Brazil. For that reason and others, we source Kirkland Signature Soybean Oil and Kirkland Signature Vegetable Oil made from soybean oil from the U.S. and Canada.



Kirkland Signature Honey

The honeybee population is facing multiple health threats. Honeybees are necessary for the pollination of approximately one-third of food consumed, including fruit, nuts and vegetables. Since 2012, we have contributed a portion of the sales of Kirkland Signature Honey items to the nonprofit honeybee research organization [Project Apis m.](#) (PAm). The projects that Costco supports continue to expand. Here are some highlights with progress updates:

- Long-Term Stock Improvement, which includes developing varroa-resistant bees for a sustainable, chemical-free varroa control option, and maintaining a sustainable genetic repository for honeybee germplasm to safeguard the genetic integrity and diversity of honeybees against future health threats. More information can be found here, [The Hilo Bee Project](#) & [Varroa Resistant Bee video](#).
- Apiculture Technology Transfer Teams give U.S. beekeepers technical support in the field, survey honeybee health and educate beekeepers about best management practices. These teams save beekeepers money, prevent losses and help to keep a finger on the pulse of bee health nationwide. You can learn more in this [case studies video](#).

- Ph.D. Scholarship Grants provide funds to scholars to support the future of honeybee research. The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students who are pursuing research-based doctoral degrees in fields within the PAm mission of enhancing honeybee health while improving crop production. More information about these scholars in the U.S. and Canada can be found here: [PAm-Costco Scholars](#).
- [Seeds for Bees Forage](#) puts blooming plants back on the agricultural landscape, helping bees get the nutrition they need to stay healthy, pollinate and make honey — all while improving soil health and water infiltration. For more information, please view [The 2023 Seeds for Bees Impact Report](#).
- [The Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund](#) establishes high-quality pollinator habitat to ensure honeybee and monarch butterfly population health. The Midwest is a critical area where efforts are focused to support honey production, pollination and native pollinators. For more information, view [The 2023 Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund Impact Report](#).

Kirkland Signature Honey Program Highlights

2022-2023

Project *Apis m.*

RESEARCH

Over **\$7M** invested in **56** applied research projects that support beekeepers, healthy bees, and secure the supply chain of domestic honey



EDUCATION

\$1.3M awarded to **18** PAm-Costco Scholars committed to researching honey bee health.



NUTRITION

2.9M Milkweed Seeds Planted in Summer Breeding Grounds for Monarchs.



11,000 Acres of habitat and forage planted strategically in California and the Midwest.



- Casa Apis is a cooperative of over 700 small-scale beekeepers in Northeast Brazil that is a source of Kirkland Signature Organic Raw Honey. Costco has a \$100,000 grant to support efforts to plant drought-tolerant native trees in their community. More information about the project with Casa Apis can be found here: [Trees for Bees](#).



*Casa apis
beekeepers grow
bee-friendly trees
and other plants
in local nurseries
for planting in
regional fields.*

Costco also offers an additional honey category: Local Raw Unfiltered Honey from various regions around the U.S. More information can be found in the *Costco Connection* article, [Honeybee health](#); in our [Merchandising section](#) (see “Environmental Impacts & Land Stewardship”); and at [ProjectApism.org](#).