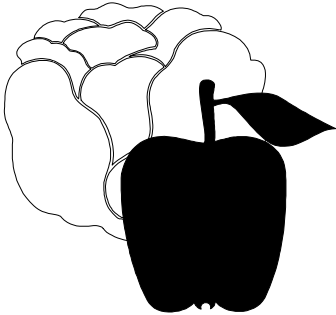


Recovering Exposed Fruits, Vegetables and Soils



- Fruits and vegetables may be externally contaminated by radioactive particles.
- Normal washing of leaves, pods and fruits that are surface-contaminated is effective in removing contamination.
- Washing should be done in a place other than the kitchen to prevent contamination of foods and dishes.
- Underground crops absorb little radiation. Standard washing is sufficient for these foods.
- Most land should be ready for normal agricultural use several weeks after the incident.
- Officials can monitor and sample your land, advising you when it is appropriate to return to it.
- If soil is highly contaminated, removal and disposal may be necessary.
- Planting alternative crops such as cotton or flax instead of food crops may be recommended in some situations.
- Deep plowing will remove radioactive substances below the plant root level and prevent plants from taking up contaminated substances.

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Adapted by UF/IFAS from:
*Extension Agent's Hand-
book for Emergency Pre-
paration and Response*
(Texas Agricultural
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