

Suitability of Growing Areas



Growers need to assess production areas to identify potential sources of contamination. Take action to eliminate or reduce those sources of contamination.

Food safety risks



Undertake a risk assessment for potential food safety risks on your farm and indoor growing facilities (e.g. greenhouses, hydroponics). This can include mapping areas of risk.

Food safety risks can include dangerous microbes (pathogens), chemical contamination (e.g. pesticides), or physical materials (e.g. glass, metal, wood).

If your farm is near a town or on a main road, you may find that rubbish needs to be removed from some fields before harvest.

Make a note of areas of the farms that attract more wildlife. Animals can contaminate produce, the soil, and water sources.

Risk prevention

Identify the fields which are more likely to get flooded. Floodwaters carry all types of contamination to crops.

Fence fields to prevent livestock from entering fruit and vegetable production sites.

Ensure septic tanks are well maintained and located away from water sources.

Check that piles of soil amendments (used to improve the physical or chemical properties of the soil, e.g. composts) are stored in safe locations.

Dispose of rubbish promptly. Do not allow piles of rubbish or rotting produce to accumulate anywhere on the farm, as this could attract pests and disease.



Some chemicals can persist in the soil for a long time

Land contamination

Find out if your land was previously used for animal production. Check if the soil may still be contaminated.

Land that was previously used for rubbish disposal or as a waste management site may contain all types of contaminants.

Some chemicals may remain in the soil for a long time after application. Those chemicals could contaminate produce grown in contact with the soil.

If neighbouring properties are used for animal grazing, as a feedlot, or for poultry production, they could become a source of contamination for your products.