



After the Flood: Tips on Edible Garden Plants

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These would include flooded vegetables and edible plants that had no fruit OR flowers on plants at the time of flooding.

The FDA does not provide hard and fast rules here so the decision to harvest or discard garden plants will depend on your level of comfort, the specific conditions of the flood your garden experienced, and the growth stage of the individual garden plants. The major concern here is microbial contamination on the surface of plant parts.

In these cases, it really comes down to weighing your risks about the potential of food-borne illnesses. Floodwaters are likely to have contained microbial and chemical contaminants that have the potential to make people sick. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) says, "Even if the crop is not completely submerged,

there may still be microbial contamination of the edible portion of the crop. There is also the potential for