

# Would You Eat Less-Than-Perfect Fruit and Vegetables?

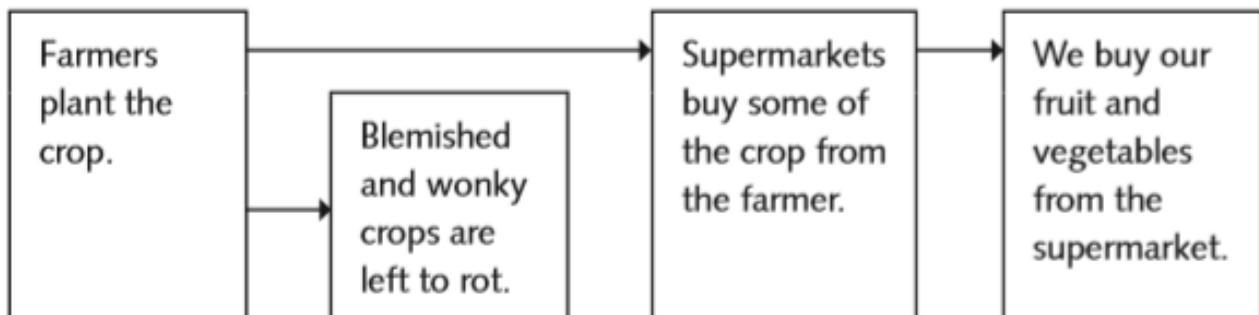
1 Farms in the UK are currently throwing away around 3 million tonnes of edible fruit and vegetables each year. Why are they throwing it away? It's because shoppers don't want to buy fruit and vegetables that look slightly different from all other fruit and vegetables. If shoppers won't buy these fruit and vegetables from the shops, the shops won't buy them from the farmers.

## FACT BOX

3 million tonnes is the same weight as:

- 6 cruise liners
- 4 big aeroplanes, including passengers
- a train pulling 12 carriages.

11 Many UK farmers sell their fruit and vegetable crops to supermarkets. The supermarkets will only buy carrots that are a particular colour, shape and size: they don't want long thin carrots, or short fat ones. Carrots that are slightly bent, or have bumps and lumps, won't end up in a supermarket. Instead, hundreds of tonnes of perfectly good, carrot-tasting carrots are being left to rot in heaps on the farm, being fed to animals or are being ploughed back and left to rot in fields.



17 The biggest difficulty farmers have is that they rely on different types of weather coming at just the right times of year. If the autumn is too long or the spring is too wet, apples and pears may end up with little brown patches on their skin. These blemishes don't affect the taste, and don't do us any harm, but we don't like to buy them and the fruit ends up rotting on the farms and in orchards.

22 What's the answer? Some supermarkets now sell "wonky" fruit and vegetables at a lower price, to see whether shoppers will buy them. These "weather-blemished" crops usually taste just the same as the other crops on sale, they just don't look as pretty. If people buy these crops from the supermarkets, the farmers get paid something for them and don't have to watch the crops rotting before they leave the farm gate.

28 Reducing food waste is a shared problem and we need to find a shared solution. What do you think **you** can do about it?

1. Give a reason from the text to explain why farms are throwing away so much edible fruit and vegetables.
- 

2. Why did the writer use a fact box in this text? Tick one.

So that the text doesn't have too many words.

To help readers understand what "3 million tonnes" means.

To explain why so many fruit and vegetables are wasted.

To tell readers to eat different-looking fruit and vegetables.

3. Give two reasons from the text why a supermarket might reject a carrot.
- 

4. What happens to the carrots the supermarkets don't buy?
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5. "These blemishes don't affect the taste."

Tick the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to "blemishes". Tick one.

Bruises or other damage.       Maggots or other insect damage.

Marks or patches on the skin.       Size and shape of the fruit.

6. Why do you think the supermarkets have to sell the "wonky" fruit and vegetables at a lower price?
- 

7. Tick the statement that is the best summary of ideas from the last two paragraphs. Tick one.

The weather affects how well a crop grows.

We don't like to buy fruit and vegetables with blemishes.

If we buy less-than-perfect crops, the farmers won't waste the food.

We need to find ways of reducing the amount of food we waste.

8. Put one tick in each row to show whether the fact is true or false.

	True	False
All the fruit and vegetables we throw away would fit into a long train.		
Many shoppers will only buy fruit and vegetables that look normal.		
Any fruit and vegetables the farmers can't sell are eaten on the farm.		
Fruit with blemishes on the skin taste the same as prettier fruit.		

Question	Answer															
<p>6. Why do you think the supermarkets sell the "wonky" fruit and vegetables at a lower price?</p> <p>7. Tick the statement that is the best summary of ideas from the <u>last two paragraphs</u>. Tick one.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The weather affects how well a crop grows.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We don't like to buy fruit and vegetables with blemishes.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> If we buy less-than-perfect crops, the farmers won't waste the food.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We need to find ways of reducing the amount of food we waste.</p>	<p>Accept answers such as the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To persuade shoppers to buy them.</li> <li>Because shoppers won't pay as much.</li> <li>To teach people that they taste the same.</li> </ul> <p>If we buy less-than-perfect crops, the farmers won't waste the food.</p>															
<p>8. Put one tick in each row to show whether the fact is true or false. (See table on the right.)</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>All the fruit and vegetables we throw away would fit into a long train.</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Many shoppers will only buy fruit and vegetables that look normal.</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Any fruit and vegetables the farmers can't sell are eaten on the farm.</td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fruit with blemishes on the skin taste the same as prettier fruit.</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		T	F	All the fruit and vegetables we throw away would fit into a long train.		✓	Many shoppers will only buy fruit and vegetables that look normal.	✓		Any fruit and vegetables the farmers can't sell are eaten on the farm.		✓	Fruit with blemishes on the skin taste the same as prettier fruit.	✓	
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Question	Answer
1. Give a reason from the text to explain why farms are throwing away so much edible fruit and vegetables.	Because shoppers don't want to buy fruit and vegetables that look slightly different from all other fruit and vegetables.
2. Why did the writer use a fact box in this text? <input type="checkbox"/> So that the text doesn't have too many words. <input type="checkbox"/> To help readers understand what "3 million tonnes" means. <input type="checkbox"/> To explain why so many fruit and vegetables are wasted. <input type="checkbox"/> To tell readers to eat different-looking fruit and vegetables.	To help readers understand what "3 million tonnes" means.
3. Give two reasons from the text why a supermarket might reject a carrot.	Any two of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• too long and thin</li> <li>• too short and fat</li> <li>• slightly bent</li> <li>• have bumps and lumps.</li> </ul>
4. What happens to the carrots the supermarkets don't buy?	Any of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• they are left to rot in heaps on the farm</li> <li>• they are fed to animals</li> <li>• they are ploughed back and left to rot in fields.</li> </ul>
5. "These blemishes don't affect the taste." Tick the phrase that is closest in meaning to "blemishes". <input type="checkbox"/> Bruises or other damage. <input type="checkbox"/> Marks or patches on the skin. <input type="checkbox"/> Maggots or other insect damage. <input type="checkbox"/> Size and shape of the fruit.	Marks or patches on the skin.