

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

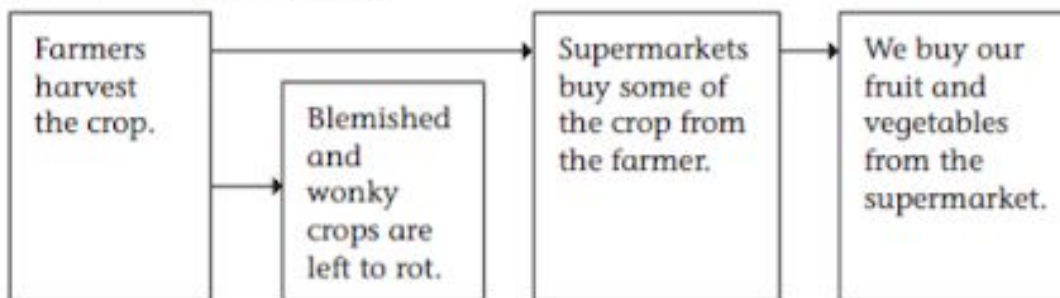
- 1 Farms in the UK are currently throwing away around 3 million tonnes of edible fruit and vegetables each year. Why are they throwing it away? It's because shoppers don't want to buy fruit and vegetables that look slightly different from all other fruit and vegetables. If shoppers won't buy these fruit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

- 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.



- 18 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 the orchards.
- 24 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.
- 30 Reducing food waste is a shared problem and we need to find a shared solution. What do you think **you** can do about it?

Challenge 2

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

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2b  
  
1 mark

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

so that the text does have too many words

to help readers understand what "3 million tonnes" means

to explain why so much fruit and vegetables are wasted

to tell readers to eat different-looking fruit and vegetables

2f  
  
1 mark

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

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2b  
  
1 mark

4 What happens to the carrots the supermarkets don't buy?

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2b  
  
1 mark

5 "These blemishes don't affect the taste."

Tick the 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

2a  
  
1 mark

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

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2d  
  
1 mark

Write the question number and then answer the questions:

**Answers:**