

# AgLanta Grows-A-Lot Recommendations

Community gardens provide many benefits, including healthier lifestyles by increasing activity levels, providing fresh produce, growing community pride, and nurturing social interactions and cooperation among people.

When creating a garden or farm, it is highly recommended that communities consider the site's land use history and test the soil for potential contamination.

The following recommendations for agricultural use on AgLanta Grows-A-Lot plots are based on historic site reviews and soil sample testing commissioned by Groundwork Atlanta. The color-coding represents Action Levels based on Toronto and EPA guidelines, and best practices for these different action levels are explained on the next page.

Use	Action Level 1			Action Level 2				
	Mary George	Collier	Spink	Centra Villa	Sunset	Campbellton	Whitehall	Morningside
Root vegetables	OK	OK	OK	Beds	Beds	Beds	Beds	Beds
Plants with shallow roots	OK	OK	OK	Beds	Beds	Beds	Beds	Beds
Plants with deep roots	Beds	Beds	Beds	No	No	No	No	No
Vertical production, hydroponics, and other growing methods that do not utilize the native soil	OK	R	R	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Composting	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Mushrooms	OK	OK	OK	Beds	Beds	Beds	Beds	Beds
Grains	OK	OK	OK	Beds	Beds	Beds	Beds	Beds
Berries	OK	OK	OK	Beds	Beds	Beds	Beds	Beds
Fruiting vines/vineyard	OK	OK	OK	Beds	Beds	Beds	Beds	Beds
Nut and Fruit trees	OK	R	R	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Flowers/pollinator plants not for human consumption	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Bee hives or apiaries	OK	R	R	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Chickens	OK	R	R	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Goats	OK	R	R	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK

R = Georgia Power right-of-way restrictions on structures and heights apply.  
 Beds = Raised bed, container, or 24 inches of clean soil cover.

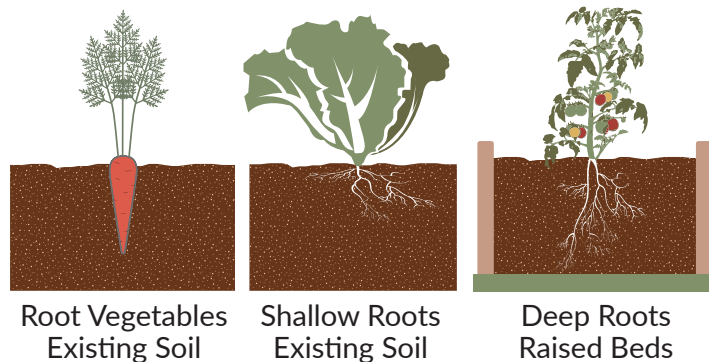


Analytes	Lower Limit (mg/kg)	Cautionary Limit (mg/kg)	Upper Limit (mg/kg)
Arsenic	2.7	11	110
Cadmium (diet)	1	10	71
Chromium	5	390	630
Lead	34	100	340
Mercury	2.7	11	46
Selenium	10	11	390

### Action Level 1 - Exercise Caution in Contact with Native Soil

Basis: All analytes are below the cautionary limit, but at least one analyte was measured above the lower limit.

Always use good gardening practices:  
Wash hands, produce and clothes



Root Vegetables Existing Soil

Shallow Roots Existing Soil

Deep Roots Raised Beds

### Action Level 2 - Restrictions Apply to Contact with Native Soil

Basis: All analytes were below the upper limit, but at least one analyte was measured above the cautionary limit.

Use good gardening practices and:  
Lower the concentrations of contaminants by amending existing soil with clean soil and organic matter (compost and manure).  
Reduce dust by covering bare soil with ground cover or mulch. Peel root vegetables before you eat or cook them.



Root Vegetables Raised Beds

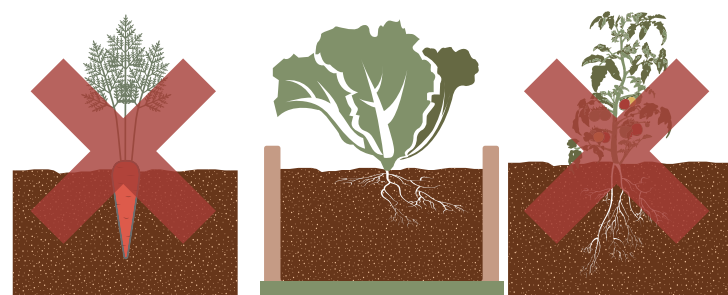
Shallow Roots Raised Beds

Deep Roots Not Recommended

### Action Level 3 - Eliminate Contact with Native Soil

Basis: At least one analyte was measured above the upper limit.

Use good gardening practices AND:  
Reduce dust by covering bare soil with ground cover or mulch, or keeping the soil damp.  
Build raised bed gardens (add a minimum of 40cm (16in) of clean soil on top of garden fabric), or grow food in containers.  
Add clean soil and organic matter annually (compost and manure) to the raised bed or containers, OR  
Grow only nut and fruit trees (not any other types of produce)



Root Vegetables Not Recommended

Shallow Roots Raised Beds

Deep Roots Not Recommended

Source Documentation:

Toronto Public Health Guide for Soil Testing in Urban Gardens: <http://www.ruaf.org/sites/default/files/Guide%20for%20soil%20testing%20in%20urban%20gardens.pdf>

Aganta Secondary Use Guidelines for Urban Farms in Ga Power Right-of-Ways

EPA 2014 Technical Review Workgroup recommendations regarding gardening and reducing exposure to lead-contaminated soils

EPA 2011 Brownfields and Urban Agriculture: Interim Guidelines for Safe Gardening Practices

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