ASSESSING THE SAFETY OF YOUR GARDEN AFTER A FIRE

This tool is designed to help property owners determine the risk to their soil as a result of the Marshall fire and provide mitigation advice.

USE THIS RESOURCE TO ASSESS THE LEVEL OF DAMAGE AND IDENTIFY RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Did your property sustain damage to structures?

NO

Did your home/property experience smoke damage and/or heavy ash contamination?

NO

HIGH RISK

YES

MODERATE RISK

Did your property receive transient smoke and small or light ash deposits?

NO

MINIMAL RISK

YES

MINIMAL RISK

Was your property downwind in a smoke plume but no visible ash or damage?

NO

NO RISK

YES

MINIMAL RISK
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

LEVEL 1  MINIMAL

• Risk is minimal but the only way to know is test for soil characteristics.

• Any produce or food growing during the fire should be discarded if smoke impacted your property or you are unsure.

LEVEL 2  MODERATE

• Remove the top few inches of soil after ash and debris clean up.

• Soil sampling is recommended.

• Getting your soil tested before gardening is the best way to determine its condition.

LEVEL 3  HIGH

• Remove a few inches of soil as soon as possible to help prevent possible contamination from migrating deeper in soil.

• Getting your soil tested before gardening is the best way to determine its condition.

RESOURCES

Colorado State University

• Soil, Water and Plant Testing Laboratory: 970-491-5061

• Selecting an Analytical Lab

Oregon State University

• What should I do about the wildfire ash covering my yard and garden?

• Take precautions when wildfire ash falls on fruits and vegetables