

Food Quality Drops; USDA Shrugs

Two recent studies indicate that the nutrient content of American and British grown fruits and vegetables is declining.

Examples: onion, tomatoes, carrots, potatoes, green beans, spinach, corn peas, broccoli, and kale. We wanted to know what the USDA was doing about it.

Director of USDA's Agricultural Research Service's response:

"Yes, nutrition level in many foods appear to be dropping; but we're not sure why they dropping, and we don't plan to pursue the matter."

- *Organic Gardening's* studies and theories:
- Intensive chemical based industrial farming is harming soil quality in just 50 years.
- High-yield agriculture affects the quality of food produced on ever-depleting soils.
- Minimum recycling of nutrients such as animal manures
- Ever-increasing soil erosion rates.

— from *Organic Gardening* magazine May/June 2000