Assessing Soil Fertility

Use this decision tree to assess the risk of cadmium (Cd) concentration in spinach crops

Prior to first use of a production block intended for spinach, evaluate the soil for the presence of Cd (may use soil maps*, historical data*, sampling and analysis or any other source of information to document the presence or absence of Cd).

**YES**
Determine and document (by estimation or measurement) the Cd concentration in soils

**NO**
Document your findings

Is Cd present in spinach production blocks?

**YES**
Develop an SOP for soil fertility management that will document baseline levels of Cd in soils intended for spinach **AND** develop an SOP describing any mitigation measures implemented to reduce the uptake of Cd in spinach

**NO**
Document your findings

Does Cd present a risk in finished product? (See Appendix Y)

* Note: maps and historical information may have limited utility as they are imprecise and soils have been moved and mixed over time by mechanical methods and storm events.

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