

# **Edible and inedible waste**



# Not about edibility at time of disposal



This pear was edible  
in the past, even if  
it's inedible now

Photo by [Anita Jankovic](#) on [Unsplash](#)



## About separating parts not generally eaten



Photo by [Ana T.](#) on [Unsplash](#)

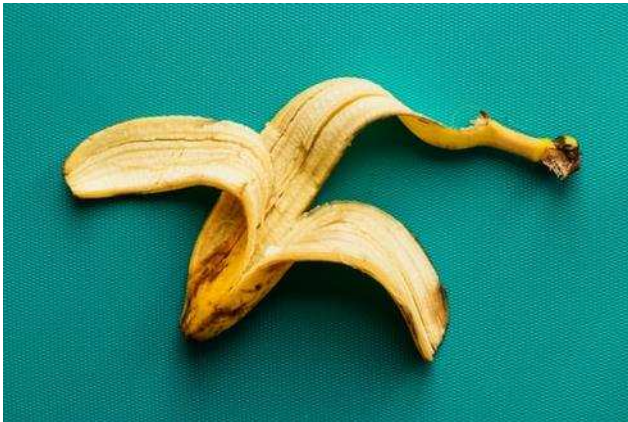


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**How would you classify edible parts?**



# How about ... ?



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Photo by [Chris Liverani](#) on [Unsplash](#)



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# Potential classification routes

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- In the supply chain, can classify according to whether the 'part' has a viable market
- Is it 'ingestible'? Will harm come from consuming it?
- **Culturally based approach:**
  - What people in your country view as edible
  - What they themselves eat



# Culturally-based approach

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- **For borderline items, ask:**
  - Which of these items do you eat, assuming they are appropriately cooked and in good condition?
  - Which of these items do you consider inedible and which could possibly be eaten, even if you don't eat them yourself?
- **Convert responses into scores:**
  - 0 for options relating to inedible
  - 1 for options relating to edible
- **If average score:**
  - Greater than 0.5 => edible
  - Less than 0.5 => inedible
- **Use survey findings to guide decisions for parts not asked about**

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resconrec.2019.03.004>



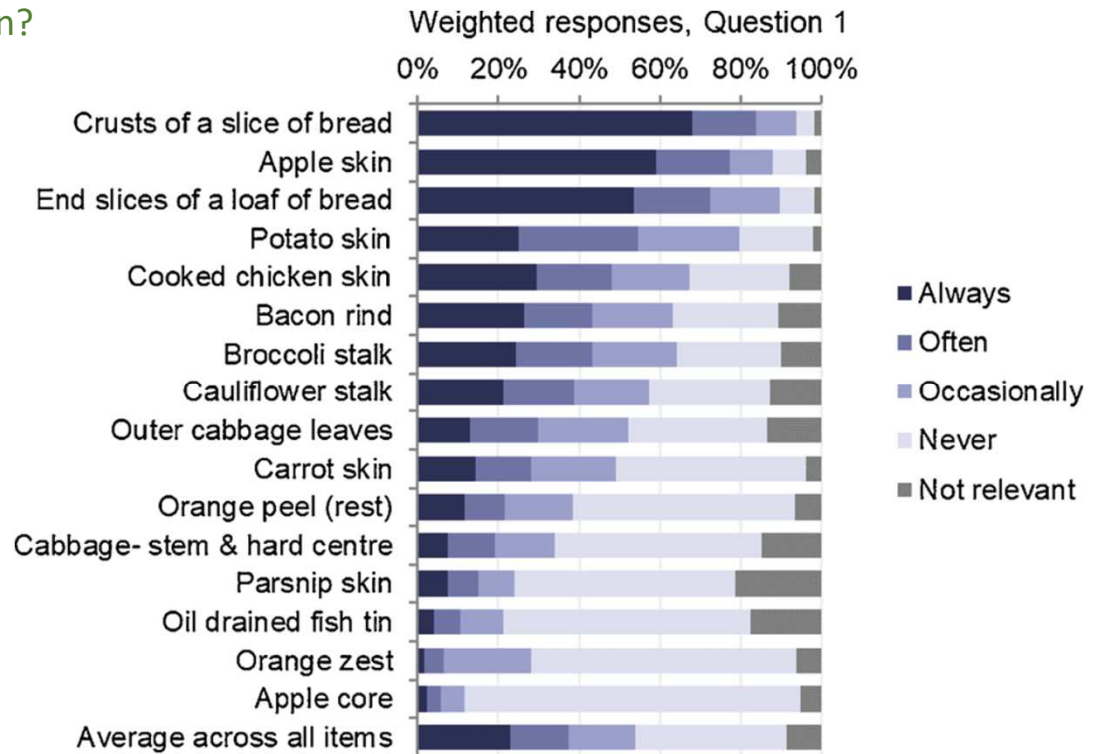


# Example results (from UK)

Which of these items do you eat, assuming they are appropriately cooked and in good condition?

Needed to decide on foods to test: border-line edible / inedible in UK, and frequently found in the waste stream. →

Will be different in different countries.



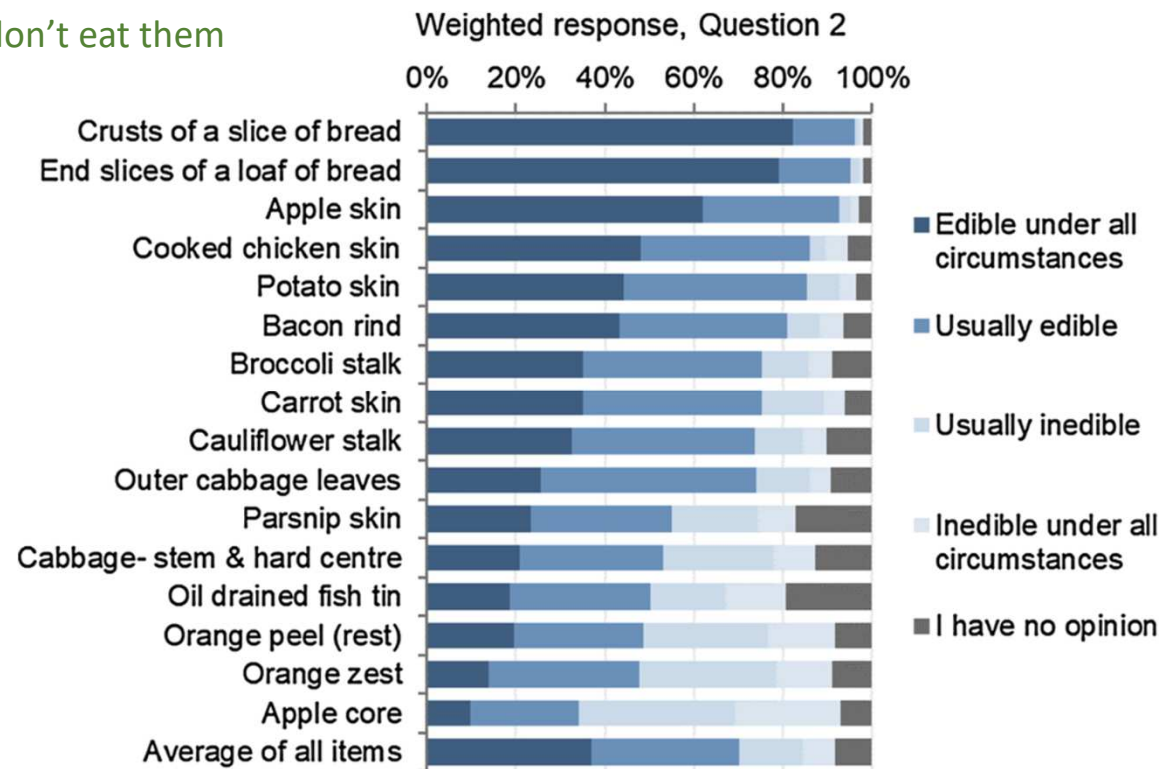
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resconrec.2019.03.004>



# Example results (from UK)

Which of these items do you consider inedible and which could possibly be eaten, even if you don't eat them yourself?

People more likely to say they are edible, than say they eat them themselves



<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resconrec.2019.03.004>



# Important points

- Do survey before waste compositional analysis
- Minimum sample size of 300 people (95% confidence interval c.  $\pm 5\%$ )
- Sample representative of your country
- During waste compositional analysis, for whole items containing edible and inedible parts:
  - Cheapest method: sort into category of largest part
  - Most accurate: separate into edible and inedible parts, or estimate % edible



# Let's try it ourselves

Fill out the form: tick one box for each row

