

Columbia wastewater sludge spread on farm fields in four counties

The Columbia Wastewater Treatment Plant separates liquids from solids before processing the leftovers and shipping them off to farms to use as fertilizer. The material contains nutrients to help crops grow, but it also contains some contaminants, such as PFAS, or "forever chemicals." Corn, the most common crop on these farms, is considered to be at a lower risk for taking up PFAS into edible parts of the plant.

The map below shows only the fields that received waste in 2023. About 120 fields total are part of a multi-year rotation.

