



United States Department of Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

Specialty
Crops
Program

Specialty
Crops
Inspection
Division

United States Standards for Grades of Berries for Processing

Effective September 6, 2016

This issue of the United States Standards for Grades of Berries for Processing (81 FR 51297) supersedes the previous issue which has been in effect since June 2, 1947.

Voluntary U.S. grade standards are issued under the authority of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, which provides for the development of official U.S. grades to designate different levels of quality. These grade standards are available for use by producers, suppliers, buyers, and consumers. As in the case of other standards for grades of fresh and processed fruits, vegetables, and specialty crops these standards are designed to facilitate orderly marketing by providing a convenient basis for buying and selling, for establishing quality control programs, and for determining loan values.

The U.S. grade standards and inspection instructions for all fresh and processed fruits, vegetables, and specialty crops are available on the internet and upon request at the address below. These documents provide detailed interpretations of the grade standards and provide step-by-step procedures for grading the product.

Grade standards are issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) after careful consideration of all data and views submitted during rulemaking. The Department welcomes suggestions for improving the standards in future revisions. Comments may be submitted to, and copies of standards and inspection instructions obtained from:

Director, Specialty Crops Inspection Division
Specialty Crops Program,
USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 0240
Washington, D.C. 20250

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627.

Note: Compliance with the provisions of these standards shall not excuse failure to comply with the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or with applicable State laws and regulations.

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Grades

§51.860 U.S. No. 1.

U.S. No. 1 shall consist of berries of similar varietal characteristics which are free from caps (calyxes), mold or decay, and from dried, undeveloped and distinctly immature berries and from damage caused by overmaturity, crushing, shriveling, dirt, or other foreign matter, hail, sunscald, moisture, birds, disease, insects, mechanical or other means. At least 85 percent, by weight, of the berries in the lot shall be well colored. (See §51.863.)

- (a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper handling, not more than 10 percent, by weight, of the berries in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade, including not more than 3 percent for distinctly immature berries. No part of any tolerance shall be allowed to reduce the percentage of well colored berries required in the grade, and no part of any tolerance shall be allowed for berries infested with worms.

§51.861 U.S. No. 2.

U.S. No. 2 shall consist of berries which meet the requirements for U.S. No. 1 grade except for color and except for the increased tolerance for defects specified below. At least 75 percent, by weight, of the berries in the lot shall be well colored. (See §51.863.)

- (a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper handling, not more than 20 percent, by weight, of the berries in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade, including not more than 5 percent for distinctly immature berries. No part of any tolerance shall be allowed to reduce the percentage of well colored berries required in the grade, and no part of any tolerance shall be allowed for berries infested with worms.

Reserved

§51.862 Reserved.

Size

§51.863 Size.

In view of the size variations in different producing sections and size variations of different types and varieties of berries, no size requirements are specified in these standards. However, the size may be specified in terms of minimum diameter or length.

- (a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper sizing, not more than 5 percent, by weight, of the berries in any lot may fail to meet the size specified.

Definitions

§51.864 Dried.

“**Dried**” means appreciably lacking in juice. Dried berries are excessively seedy and often shriveled.

§51.865 Undeveloped.

“**Undeveloped**” means lack of development, due to frost or insect injury, lack of pollination or other means, which causes the berry to be dwarfed or badly misshapen.

§51.866 Distinctly immature.

“**Distinctly immature**” means that the berries are light red, whitish, or green in the case of types or varieties which are characteristically blue or black when well ripened; and that the berries are whitish or green in the case of types or varieties which are characteristically red when well ripened.

§51.867 Damage.

“**Damage**” means any injury or defect which materially affects the berries for processing purposes. The following shall be considered as damage:

- (a) **Overmaturity**, when the drupelets of the berry have lost their luster and are excessively soft. Such berries usually disintegrate when washed under pressure.
- (b) **Crushing**, when more than one-fourth of the drupelets of the berry have been crushed.
- (c) **Shriveling**, when the berry is materially shriveled as evidenced by drying or undevelopment of more than one-fourth of the drupelets of the berry.
- (d) **Dirt**, when it cannot be removed from the berry in the ordinary washing process.

§51.868 Well colored.

“**Well colored**” means that the berry has the color characteristic for a well ripened berry of the type or variety.

§51.869 Diameter.

“**Diameter**” means the greatest dimension of the berry measured at right angles to a line running from the stem end to the blossom end.