



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

**Agricultural  
Marketing  
Service**

**Fruit and  
Vegetable  
Division**

**Fresh  
Products  
Branch**

# **United States Standards for Grades of Honey Dew and Honey Ball Type Melons**

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# United States Standards for Grades of Honey Dew and Honey Ball Type Melons<sup>1</sup>

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## **Grades**

### **§51.3740 U.S. No. 1.**

"U.S. No. 1" consists of honey dew or honey ball type melons which are mature, firm, well formed, which are free from decay, and free from damage caused by dirt, aphid stain, rust spots, bruises, cracks, broken skin, sunscald, sunburn, hail, moisture, insects, disease, or other means. (See §51.3744.)

### **§51.3741 U.S. Commercial.**

"U.S. Commercial" consists of honey dew or honey ball type melons which meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade except for the increased tolerances for defects. (See §51.3744.)

### **§51.3742 U.S. No. 2.**

"U.S. No. 2" consists of honey dew or honey ball type melons which are mature, firm, fairly well formed, free from decay and free from serious damage by any cause. (See §51.3744.)

## **Unclassified**

### **§51.3743 Unclassified.**

"Unclassified" consists of melons which have not been classified in accordance with any of the foregoing grades. The term "unclassified" is not a grade within the meaning of these standards but is provided as a designation to show that no grade has been applied to the lot.

## **Tolerances**

### **§51.3744 Tolerances.**

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<sup>1</sup>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.

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling in each of the foregoing grades, the following tolerances, by count, are provided as specified:

(a) **U.S. No. 1.** 10 percent for melons in any lot which fail to meet the requirements of the grade: **Provided**, That not more than one-half of this amount, or 5 percent, shall be allowed for defects causing serious damage, including in this latter amount not more than 1 percent for melons affected by decay.

(b) **U.S. Commercial.** 20 percent for melons in any lot which fail to meet the requirements of this grade: **Provided**, That not more than one-fourth of this amount, or 5 percent, shall be allowed for defects causing serious damage, including in this latter amount not more than 1 percent for melons affected by decay.

(c) **U.S. No. 2.** 10 percent for melons in any lot which fail to meet the requirements of this grade including not more than 1 percent for melons affected by decay.

#### **Application of Tolerances**

##### **§51.3745 Application of tolerances.**

The contents of individual packages in the lot, based on sample inspection, are subject to the following limitations:

(a) For a tolerance of 10 percent or more, individual packages shall have not more than 1-1/2 times the tolerance specified: **Provided**, That when the package contains 15 specimens or less, any individual package shall have not more than double the tolerance specified, except that at least one defective specimen may be permitted in any package: **And provided further**, That the averages for the entire lot are within the tolerances specified for the grade.

(b) For a tolerance of less than 10 percent, individual packages in any lot shall have not more than double the tolerance specified, except that at least one defective specimen may be permitted in any package: **Provided**, That the averages for the entire lot are within the tolerances specified for the grade.

#### **Definitions**

##### **§51.3746 Mature.**

"Mature" means that the melon has reached the stage of maturity which will insure the proper completion of the normal ripening process.

##### **§51.3747 Well formed.**

"Well formed" means that the melon has the normal shape characteristic of the variety.

##### **§51.3748 Damage.**

"Damage" means any specific defect described in this section; or an equally objectionable variation of any one of these defects, any other defect, or any combination of defects, which materially detracts from the appearance, or the edible or marketing quality of the melon.

(a) The following specific defects shall be considered as damage:

- (1) Sunburn which causes the rind to become brownish in color, hard, tough, or thin; and,
- (2) Bruising when the size or color of the affected area materially detracts from the appearance.

(b) The following blemishes shall not be considered as damage:

- (1) Slight bruising caused by light pressure of the weight of other melons or from lidding of the crate;
- (2) Yellow spots;
- (3) Superficial hail spots;

- (4) Slight surface scratches caused by picking or packing; or,
- (5) Netting, either raised or occurring as very shallow cracks in the skin.

**§51.3749 Serious damage.**

"Serious damage" means any defect or any combination of defects which seriously detracts from the appearance, or the edible or marketing quality of the melon.