



United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Specialty Crops Inspection Division

**PATCH # 074**

**DOCUMENT:** U.S. Standards for Grades of Watermelons, September 20, 2021

**REMARKS:** This Patch will provide guidance for understanding the changes in the recently revised U.S. Standards for Grades of Watermelons and how to apply them in FEIRS.

**U.S. Fancy grade:** No changes. However, as a reminder, the quality defect Whiteheart is applied to the restricted 1% tolerance for Whiteheart, Sunscald, Anthracnose, or decay at shipping point, and the restricted 2% tolerance for Whiteheart, Sunscald, Anthracnose, or Decay en route or at destination. **En route or at destination:** Whiteheart would be recorded separately from other Quality defects on the scoresheet and reported above any other Quality defects on the SC-300 certificate. Please see the following SC-300 certificate example:

D. L O I	to		°F		including		OFFSIZE / DEF
	AVERAGE DEFECTS		BAMAGE SER. DAM.		SER. DAM.	W.S. Damage	
A.	05	%	00	%		%	QUALITY - WHITEHEART (0 TO 10%)
	06	%	01	%		%	QUALITY - SUNBURN (0 TO 10%)
	14	%	14	%		%	ANTHRACNOSE (5 TO 25%)
	07	%	07	%		%	DECAY (0 TO 15%), EARLY STAGES
	32	%	22	%		%	CHECKSUM
B.	04	%	02	%		%	QUALITY (SCARS)
	03	%	03	%		%	ANTHRACNOSE (0 TO 5%)
	00	%	00	%		%	DECAY
	07	%	05	%		%	CHECKSUM
		%		%		%	
	%		%		%		
	%		%		%		
	%		%		%		
	%		%		%		

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For FV-E300 certificates in the Fresh Electronic Inspection Reporting Resource System (FEIRS) Whiteheart is recorded separately on the scoresheet. Refer to the Defects tab for the percentage of Whiteheart that will be reported (see below).

A | New Lot |

Lot Information | Scoresheet | Attachments | Lot Summary | Data Grid

Grade to Apply: FY U.S. FANCY  Shi

Final Grade:  Meets  Fails Account: Q QUALITY

Samples | Defects | Tolerances | Weight

WATERMELONS																
#	DEK: DECAY (C)				WHH: WHITEHEART (Q)				SUN: SUNBURN (Q)				ANT: ANTHRACNOSE (C)			
	Sample No	Damage	%	Serious Damage	%	Damage	%	Serious Damage	%	Damage	%	Serious Damage	%	Damage	%	Serious Damage
1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	5.0	1.0	5.0
2	3.0	15.0	3.0	15.0	2.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	25.0	5.0	25.0
3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	10.0	1.0	5.0	2.0	10.0	2.0	10.0
4	2.0	10.0	2.0	10.0	2.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	10.0	2.0	10.0
5	2.0	10.0	2.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	20.0	4.0	20.0
		7		7		5		0		6		1		14		14

Since Quality defects are reported together on the FV-E300 certificate and cannot be separated, the percentage of Whiteheart should be reported as “QUALITY DEFECTS INCLUDES XX% DAMAGE AND XX% SERIOUS DAMAGE BY WHITEHEART” in the Lot Description field (see below).

Example 3

INJURY	DAM	SER DAM	V.S. DAM	OFFSIZE/DEFECTS
NA	11	1	NA	QUALITY DEFECTS (5 to 15%)(SUNBURN, WHITEHEART)
NA	14	14	NA	ANTHRACNOSE (5 to 25%)
NA	7	7	NA	DECAY (0 to 15%)
NA	32	22	NA	CHECKSUM
GRADE:	FAILS TO GRADE U.S. FANCY ACCOUNT QUALITY.			
LOT DESC:	STAGES OF DECAY: EARLY TEMPERATURES(5): 55°F, 51°F, 53°F, 49°F, 54°F QUALITY DEFECTS INCLUDE 5 % DAMAGE AND 0% SERIOUS DAMAGE BY WHITEHEART			

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**U.S. No. 1 grade: Shipping Point:** The 3% tolerance for Anthracnose has been removed. Anthracnose and decay have been combined under the restricted tolerance of 1%. You cannot have more than 1% total for Anthracnose or decay. For example, if you have 1% for Anthracnose and 1% for decay, the lot fails to grade. **En route or at destination:** Anthracnose is removed from the 5% serious damage tolerance and combined with the 2% restricted tolerance for decay. You cannot have more than 2% total for Anthracnose or decay.

**U.S. No. 2 grade: Shipping Point:** The 6% tolerance for Anthracnose is removed. Anthracnose and decay are combined under the 1% restricted tolerance for decay. You cannot have more than 1% total for Anthracnose or decay. **En route or at destination:** Anthracnose is combined with the 2% restricted tolerance for decay. Before, it was part of the 12% total tolerance. Now you cannot have more than 2% total for Anthracnose or decay.

**For either of the above grades: En route or at destination:** When performing a Quality and Condition inspection for watermelon in FEIRS the percentage of anthracnose scored is being incorrectly applied to the 5% serious damage tolerance and not to the 2% Anthracnose/Decay tolerance. Thus, you will need to make your meets/fails final grade determination manually. Anthracnose will correctly display on the FEIRS certificate.

#### **Changes in scoring guides:**

- The new scoring guides for Sunburn, Hail, Rindworm Injury, Scars, and Transit Rubs are based on a 15 pound melon instead of a 25 pound melon. Allow correspondingly less or more for smaller or larger melons.
- The scoring guide for Second Growth remains the same except it is based on a 15 pound melon. Second Growth is not mentioned in the standards, but all scoring guides based on melon weight (size) were changed to 15 pounds.
- The new scoring guide for Hollow Heart is based on any size melon.
- Sunburn is now a quality defect.
- Rindworm Injury found on the ground spot is scored as damage when it exceeds the area allowed and seriously detracts from the appearance.

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