



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 Sweet Anise

Effective September 6, 2016

This issue of the United States Standards for Grades of Sweet Anise (81 FR 51297) supersedes the previous issue which has been in effect since March 15, 1973.

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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United States Standards for Grades of Sweet Anise

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Grade
§51.2900 U.S. No. 1

“**U.S. No. 1**” consists of stalks of sweet anise which are firm, tender, well trimmed, and fairly well blanched; which are free from decay and from damage caused by growth cracks, pithy branches, wilting, freezing, seedstems, dirt, discoloration, disease, insects, or mechanical or other means. Unless otherwise specified, the minimum diameter of each bulb shall be not less than 2 inches.

- (a) **Tolerances.** In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, the following tolerances, by count, are provided as specified:
- (1) **For defects.** Ten percent for stalks in any lot which fail to meet the requirements of this grade, including therein not more than 1 percent for stalks affected by decay.
 - (2) **For size.** Ten percent for stalks in any lot which fail to meet the specified minimum diameter requirement.

Reserved
§51.2901 Reserved.

Definitions
§51.2902 Stalk.

“**Stalk**” means an individual plant.

§51.2903 Firm.

“**Firm**” means that the bulbs are not soft or wilted.

§51.2904 Tender.

“**Tender**” means that the bulbs are crisp and succulent.

§51.2905 Well Trimmed.

“**Well trimmed**” means that not more than one coarse outer branch is left on each side of the bulb to protect the tender inside portion, and the portion of the root remaining is not more than one-half inch in length. Tops may be either full length or cut back to not less than 10 inches except that not more than five of the outer branches may be cut back to less than 10 inches if necessary to facilitate proper packing, but not more than three of these may be on the same side of the bulb.

§51.2906 Fairly well blanched.

“**Fairly well blanched**” means the bulbs are of a light greenish to white color.

§51.2907 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 stalk. The following specific defects shall be considered as damage:

- (a) Growth cracks, when more than three branches show one or more growth cracks.
- (b) Pithy branches, when more than three branches show distinctly open texture with air spaces in the central portion of that part which goes to make up the base or bulbous portion of the stalk.
- (c) Wilting, when the stalk is limp and flabby.
- (d) Freezing, when the epidermis of the branches is badly blistered, or when the tops are brown or yellow to such an extent as to materially damage the appearance of the stalk, or when a combination of these causes material damage to the appearance and shipping quality of the stalk.
- (e) Seedstems, which have reached the stage where the flower buds are plainly visible. Stalks from which the seedstems have been removed shall be considered as damaged.
- (f) Dirt, when caked on the bulbous portion of the stalk, or when present to such an extent on the tops and branches as to cause material damage to the appearance of the stalk.
- (g) Discoloration, when the bulbous portion shows extensive brown to dark brown areas characteristic of injury caused by rough handling, or when the tops are yellow or brown to such an extent as to cause material damage to the appearance of the stalk.

§51.2908 Diameter.

“**Diameter**” means the smallest diameter measured through the center of the bulb at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the stalk.