



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Agricultural
Marketing
Service**

**Fruit and
Vegetable
Division**

**Fresh
Products
Branch**

United States Standards for Grades of Romaine

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United States Standards for Grades of Romaine¹

Grades

51.3295 U.S. No. 1.

Unclassified

51.3296 Unclassified.

Tolerances

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Grades

§51.3295 U.S. No. 1.

"U.S. No. 1" consists of romaine plants of similar varietal characteristics which are fresh, well developed, well trimmed, and which are free from decay, and free from damage caused by seedstems, broken, bruised or discolored leaves, tipburn, wilting, foreign material, freezing, dirt, disease, insects, mechanical or other means.

Unclassified

§51.3296 Unclassified.

"Unclassified" consists of romaine plants which have not been classified in accordance with the foregoing grade. 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

§51.3297 Tolerances.

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling the following tolerances, by count, are provided:

(a) 10 percent of the plants in any lot may 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 serious damage, including therein not more than 2 percent for decay.

Application of Tolerances

§51.3298 Application of tolerances.

¹Compliance 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.

The contents of individual packages are subject to the following limitations: **Provided**, That the averages for the entire lot are within the tolerances specified for the grade:

(a) A package shall have not more than one and one-half times a specified tolerance of 10 percent and not more than double a specified tolerance of less than 10 percent, except that at least one defective plant may be permitted in any package.

Definitions

§51.3299 Similar varietal characteristics.

"Similar varietal characteristics" means that the plants in any container are of the same general type.

§51.3300 Fresh.

"Fresh" means that the plant has normal succulence but the outermost leaves may be slightly wilted.

§51.3301 Well developed.

"Well developed" means that the plant shows normal growth and shape.

§51.3302 Well trimmed.

"Well trimmed" means that the stem is trimmed off close to the point of attachment of the outer leaves.

§51.3303 Damage.

"Damage" means the specific defect described in this section; any other defect, or any combination of defects, which materially detracts from the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the plants.

(a) Seedstems when the length of the attached seedstem is more than one-fourth the overall plant length or when any portion of the seedstem has been removed.

§51.3304 Serious damage.

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