



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Agricultural
Marketing
Service**

**Fruit and
Vegetable
Division**

**Fresh
Products
Branch**

United States Standards for Grades of Spinach Leaves (Fresh)

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United States Standards for Grades of Spinach Leaves (Fresh) ¹

Grades

51.1730 U.S. Extra No. 1.

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Grades

51.1730 U.S. Extra No. 1.

"U.S. Extra No. 1" shall consist of spinach leaves of similar varietal characteristics which are fairly clean, well trimmed, free from coarse stalks, seedstems, seedbuds, crowns and roots, sandburs or other kinds of burs, decay, and from damage caused by clusters of leaves, wilting, discoloration, freezing, foreign material, disease, insects, mechanical or other means.

(a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 5 percent, by count, of any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade, including not more than 1 percent for spinach leaves which are affected by decay.

§51.1731 U.S. No. 1.

"U.S. No. 1" shall consist of spinach leaves of similar varietal characteristics which are well trimmed, free from coarse stalks, seedstems, seedbuds, crowns and roots, sandburs, or other kinds of burs, decay, and from damage caused by clusters of leaves, wilting, discoloration, freezing, dirt, or other foreign material, disease, insects, mechanical or other means.

(a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 10 percent, by count, of any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade, including not more than 1 percent for spinach leaves which are affected by decay.

§51.1732 U.S. Commercial.

"U.S. Commercial" shall consist of spinach leaves of similar varietal characteristics which are well trimmed, free from coarse stalks, seedstems, seedbuds, crowns and roots, sandburs, or other kinds of burs, decay, and from damage caused by clusters of leaves, wilting, discoloration, freezing, dirt or other foreign material, disease, insects, mechanical or other means.

(a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 20 percent, by count, of any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade, including not more than 1 percent for spinach leaves which are affected by decay.

¹Packing of the product in conformity with the requirements 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.

Application of Tolerances

§51.1733 Application of tolerances.

The contents of individual containers in the lot, based on sample inspection, are subject to the following limitations, provided the averages for the entire lot are within the tolerances specified:

- (a) When a tolerance is 10 percent, or more, individual containers in any lot shall have not more than one and one-half times the tolerance specified.
- (b) When a tolerance is less than 10 percent, individual containers in any lot shall have not more than double the tolerance specified.

Definitions

§51.1734 Similar varietal characteristics.

"Similar varietal characteristics" means that the spinach shall be generally of one type, as crinkly leaf type, or flat leaf type. No mixture of varieties shall be permitted which materially affects the appearance of the lot.

§51.1735 Well trimmed.

"Well trimmed" means that the leafstems or petioles are not excessively long in relation to the size of the leafblades.

§51.1736 Damage.

"Damage" means any defect which materially affects the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the individual leaves or of the lot as a whole.