



United States Department of Agriculture

Marketing and
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Service

Fruit and
Vegetable
Program

Specialty
Crops
Inspection
Division

United States Standards for Grades of Eggplant

Effective February 4, 2013

(Corrected December 6, 2013)

This is the fourth issue, as amended, of the United States Standards for Grades of Eggplant published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on January 3, 2013 (78 FR 283) to become effective February 4, 2013. This issue supersedes the third issue, which has been in effect since October 29, 1953.

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 and vegetables, 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, grading manuals, handbooks or instructions for inspection of several fresh and processed fruits and vegetables are available on the internet and upon request at the address below. These manuals or instructions contain detailed interpretations of the grade standards and provide step-by-step procedures for grading the product.

Grade standards are issued by the Department after careful consideration of all data and views submitted, and the Department welcomes suggestions which might aid in improving the standards in future revisions. Comments may be submitted to, and copies of standards and grading manuals obtained from:

Director, Specialty Crops Inspection Division
Fruit and Vegetable Program, AMS, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 0240
Washington, D.C. 20250
Phone: (202) 720-5870 Fax: (202) 720-0393

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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Grades

§51.2190 U.S. Fancy.

U.S. Fancy consists of eggplants of similar varietal characteristics, except when specified as a mixed or specialty pack, which are well colored, firm, clean, well shaped, and which are free from decay and worm holes and free from injury caused by scars, freezing, disease, insects, or mechanical or other means.

§51.2191 U.S. No. 1.

U.S. No. 1 consists of eggplants of similar varietal characteristics, except when specified as a mixed or specialty pack, which are fairly well colored, firm, clean, fairly well shaped, and which are free from decay and worm holes and free from damage caused by scars, freezing, disease, insects, or mechanical or other means.

§51.2192 U.S. No. 2.

U.S. No. 2 consists of eggplants which are firm and which are free from decay and free from serious damage caused by freezing, disease, insects, or mechanical or other means.

Reserved

§51.2193 [Reserved].

Tolerances

§51.2194 Tolerances.

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, other than for size, not more than 10 percent, by count, in any lot shall be permitted for eggplants which fail to meet the requirements of the grade, including therein not more than 1 percent for decay.

Application of Tolerances

§51.2195 Application of tolerances to individual packages.

- (a) The contents of individual packages 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 for the grade:
 - (1) For a tolerance of 10 percent or more, individual packages in any lot may contain not more than one and one-half times the tolerance specified, except that when the package contains 15 specimens or less, individual packages may contain not more than double the tolerance specified; and,

- (2) For a tolerance of less than 10 percent, individual packages in any lot may contain not more than double the tolerance specified: **Provided**, That at least one specimen which does not meet the requirements shall be allowed in any one package.

Size Requirements

§51.2196 Size requirements.

- (a) The size of eggplants may be specified in terms of count, minimum diameter, or a range in diameter in the container. Eggplants packed as U.S. Fancy or U.S. No. 1 grade shall be reasonably uniform in size, except when a range in diameter is specified.
- (1) In order to allow for variations incident to proper sizing, not more than 5 percent, by count, of the eggplants in any lot may be below any specified minimum diameter and not more than 5 percent may be above any specified maximum diameter.

Definitions

§51.2197 Similar varietal characteristics.

"Similar varietal characteristics" means that the eggplants in any lot are similar in type, color, and character of growth.

§51.2198 Well colored.

"Well colored" means that the eggplant has a uniform good color characteristic for the variety over practically the entire surface.

§51.2199 Firm.

"Firm" means that the eggplant is not soft, flabby or shriveled.

§51.2200 Clean.

"Clean" means that the eggplant is practically free from dirt or other foreign matter.

§51.2201 Well shaped.

"Well shaped" means that the eggplant has the normal shape characteristic of the variety, except that the shape may be slightly irregular, provided the appearance of the eggplant is not more than slightly affected.

§51.2202 Injury.

"Injury" means any defect which more than slightly affects the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the eggplant. The following defect, or any combination of defects, the seriousness of which exceeds the maximum allowed for any one defect, shall be considered as injury:

- (a) Scars when they are slightly rough or when they are fairly smooth and more than slightly affect the appearance, shape or color of the eggplant.

§51.2203 Fairly well colored.

"Fairly well colored" means that the eggplant has a fairly good color characteristic for the variety, except that streaks of green color which do not materially affect the appearance shall be permitted.

§51.2204 Fairly well shaped.

"Fairly well shaped" means that the eggplant may be slightly abnormal in shape but not to an extent that the appearance is materially affected.

§51.2205 Damage.

"Damage" means any defect which materially affects the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the eggplant. The following defect, or any combination of defects, the seriousness of which exceeds the maximum allowed for any one defect, shall be considered as damage:

- (a) Scars when they are rough or materially cracked, or when they materially affect the appearance, shape or color of the eggplant.

§51.2206 Serious damage.

"Serious damage" means any defect which seriously affects the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the eggplant.

§51.2207 Diameter.

"Diameter" means the greatest dimension of the eggplant measured at right angles to the longitudinal axis.