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# **United States Standards for Grades of Carrots with Short Trimmed Tops**

**Effective July 24, 2020**

This issue of the United States Standards for Grades of Carrots with Short Trimmed Tops (85 FR 37820) supersedes the previous issue which has been in effect since September 18, 1954.

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

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**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 Carrots with Short Trimmed Tops

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## Grades

### §51.2485 U.S. No. 1.

“**U.S. No. 1**” consists of carrots of similar varietal characteristics the roots of which are firm, fairly clean, fairly well colored, fairly smooth, well formed, and which are free from soft rot and free from damage caused by freezing, growth cracks, sunburn, pithiness, woodiness, internal discoloration, oil spray, dry rot, other disease, insects or mechanical or other means. The carrots shall have leafstems which are free from decay and free from damage caused by freezing, seedstems, yellowing or other discoloration, disease, insects or mechanical or other means. The leafstems shall be cut back to not more than 4 inches in length.

- (a) **Size.** Unless otherwise specified, the diameter of each carrot shall be not less than three-fourths inch.
- (b) **Tolerances.** In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling the following tolerances shall be permitted:
  - (1) **For defects of roots.** 10 percent, by count, for carrot roots in any lot which fail to meet the requirements of the grade, other than for size: *Provided*, That not more than one-half of this amount, or 5 percent, shall be allowed for defects causing serious damage, including therein not more than 1 percent for carrot roots affected by soft rot;
  - (2) **For defects of leafstems.** 10 percent, by count, for carrots in any lot which have leafstems which fail to meet the requirements of the grade, including therein not more than 5 percent for leafstems affected by decay;
  - (3) **For off-size roots.** 5 percent, by count, for carrot roots in any lot which are smaller than the specified minimum diameter, and 10 percent, by count, for carrot roots which are larger than any specified maximum diameter; and,
  - (4) **For off-length leafstems.** 10 percent, by count, for carrots in any lot which have leafstems longer than the specified maximum length.

### §51.2486 U.S. No. 1 Color.

“**U.S. No. 1 Color**” consists of carrots which meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1 except for fairly well colored. All roots must show good characteristic color, which means the root has a uniform characteristic color for the variety over practically the entire surface. Roots may be comingled with varieties of different colors, provided roots are of the same type.

**§51.2487 U.S. Commercial.**

“U.S. Commercial” consists of carrots which meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1 except for increased tolerance for defects of the roots specified below:

- (a) **Tolerances.** In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling the following tolerances shall be permitted:
- (1) **For defects of roots.** 20 percent, by count, for carrot roots in any lot which fail to meet the requirements of the grade, other than for size; *Provided*, That not more than one-half of this amount, or 10 percent, shall be allowed for defects causing serious damage, including therein not more than 1 percent for carrot roots affected by soft rot;
  - (2) **For defects of leafstems.** 10 percent, by count, for carrots in any lot which have leafstems which fail to meet the requirements of the grade, including therein not more than 5 percent for leafstems affected by decay;
  - (3) **For off-size roots.** 5 percent, by count, for carrot roots in any lot which are smaller than the specified minimum diameter and 10 percent, by count, for carrot roots which are larger than any specified maximum diameter; and,
  - (4) **For off-length leafstems.** 10 percent, by count, for carrots in any lot which have leafstems longer than the specified maximum length.

**Application of Tolerances**

**§51.2488 Application of tolerances.**

- (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 packages which contain more than 5 pounds and a tolerance of 10 percent or more is provided, individual packages in any lot shall have not more than one and one-half times the tolerance specified. For packages which contain more than 5 pounds and a tolerance of less than 10 percent is provided, individual packages in any lot shall have not more than double the tolerance specified except that at least one defective specimen shall be permitted in a package; and,
  - (2) For packages which contain 5 pounds or less, individual packages in any lot are not restricted as to the percentage of defects: *Provided*, That not more than one carrot which is frozen or affected by soft rot may be permitted in any package.

## **Standard Sizing**

### **§51.2489 Standard sizing.**

- (a) Carrots in packages of 2 pounds or less may be certified as “Standard Sizing,” provided the variation in diameter of the carrots in any individual package is not more than three-eighths inch and the variation in length is not more than 2-1/2 inches.
- (b) Not more than 20 percent of the packages in any lot may contain carrots which fail to meet the requirements for “Standard Sizing.”

## **Definitions**

### **§51.2490 Similar varietal characteristics.**

“**Similar varietal characteristics**” means that the carrots in any lot are of the same general type. For example, carrots with a short, but blunt growth, like the Oxheart variety, shall not be mixed with long or half-long carrots, like the Emperor or Danvers varieties.

### **§51.2491 Firm.**

“**Firm**” means that the carrot is not soft, flabby or shriveled.

### **§51.2492 Fairly clean.**

“**Fairly clean**” means that the individual carrot is reasonably free from dirt, stain or other foreign matter and that the general appearance of the carrots in the lot is not more than slightly affected.

### **§51.2493 Fairly well colored.**

“**Fairly well colored**” means that the carrot has an orange, orange red, or orange scarlet color, but not a pale orange or distinct yellow color.

### **§51.2494 Fairly smooth.**

“**Fairly smooth**” means that the carrot is not rough, ridged, or covered with secondary rootlets to the extent that the appearance is materially affected.

### **§51.2495 Well formed.**

“**Well formed**” means that the carrot is not forked, or misshapen to the extent that the appearance is more than slightly affected.

### **§51.2496 Damage.**

“**Damage**” means any defect which materially affects the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the individual carrot root or the general appearance of the carrot root

or the general appearance of the roots in the container, or causes a loss of more than 3 percent, by weight, in the ordinary preparation for use, or which materially affects the appearance or shipping quality of the leafstems. Any one of the following defects, or any combination of defects, the seriousness of which exceeds the maximum allowed for any one defect, shall be considered as damage:

- (a) **Growth cracks** which are not shallow or not smooth, or which materially affect the appearance of the carrot;
- (b) **Sunburn** which causes a loss of more than 3 percent, by weight, in the ordinary preparation for use, except that superficial light green color at the stem end which does not materially affect the appearance of the root shall be permitted; and,
- (c) **Yellowing** or other discoloration or injury to the leafstems when the appearance of the leafstems is materially affected.

**§51.2497 Diameter.**

“**Diameter**” means the greatest dimension of the root measured at right angles to the longitudinal axis.

**§51.2498 Serious damage.**

“**Serious damage**” means any defect which seriously affects the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the individual carrot or the general appearance of the carrots in the container, or causes a loss of more than 20 percent, by weight, in the ordinary preparation for use.