



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 Dewberries and Blackberries

Effective September 6, 2016

This issue of the United States Standards for Grades of Dewberries and Blackberries (81 FR 51297) supersedes the previous issue which has been in effect since February 13, 1928.

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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Grades

§51.4270 U.S. No. 1.

“**U.S. No. 1**” consists of dewberries or blackberries of one variety which are firm, well colored, well developed and not overripe, which are free from caps (calyxes), mold and decay, and from damage caused by dirt or other foreign matter, shriveling, moisture, disease, insects, mechanical or other means.

- (a) **Tolerances.** In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 10 percent, by volume, of the berries in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade, including therein not more than 5 percent for defects causing serious damage, and including in this latter amount not more than 1 percent for berries which are affected by mold or decay.

§51.4271 U.S. No. 2.

“**U.S. No. 2**” consists of dewberries or blackberries of one variety which fail to meet the requirements of the U.S. No. 1 grade but which do not contain more than 10 percent, by volume, of berries in any lot which are seriously damaged by any cause, including therein not more than 2 percent for berries which are affected by mold or decay.

Reserved

§51.4272 Reserved.

Definitions

§51.4273 Well colored.

“**Well colored**” means that the whole surface of the berry shall be a blue or black color.

§51.4274 Well developed.

“**Well developed**” means that the berries shall not be misshapen owing to anthracnose injury, frost injury, lack of pollination, insect injury, or other causes.

§51.4275 Overripe.

“**Overripe**” means dead ripe or soft, necessitating immediate consumption.

§51.4276 Damage.

“**Damage**” means any defect, or any combination of defects, which materially detracts from the appearance, or the edible or marketing quality of the berry.

§51.4277 Serious damage.

“Serious damage” means any defect, or any combination of defects, which seriously detracts from the appearance, or the edible or marketing quality of the berry. Berries which are badly deformed, crushed, leaky, moldy, decayed, or which have less than one-half of the surface covered with a blue or black color shall be considered as seriously damaged.