



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 Parsnips

Effective September 6, 2016

This issue of the United States Standards for Grades of Parsnips (81 FR 51297) supersedes the previous issue which has been in effect since December 10, 1945.

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

§51.4010 U.S. No. 1.

“**U.S. No. 1**” consists of parsnips of similar varietal characteristics which are well trimmed, fairly well formed, fairly smooth, fairly clean, fairly firm, free from woodiness, soft rot or wet breakdown, and from damage caused by discoloration, bruises, cuts, rodents, growth cracks, pithiness, disease, insects, mechanical or other means.

- (a) Unless otherwise specified, the diameter of each parsnip shall be not less than 1-1/2 inches. The maximum diameter of the parsnips in any lot may be specified in terms of inches and quarter inches, in accordance with the facts.
- (b) **Tolerances.** In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, the following tolerances, by weight, are provided as specified.
 - (1) **For defects.** Ten percent for parsnips in any lot which fail to meet the requirements of this grade, including therein not more than 5 percent for defects causing serious damage, including in this latter amount not more than 1 percent for parsnips affected by soft rot or wet breakdown.
 - (2) **For size.** Three percent for parsnips in any lot which fail to meet the specified minimum diameter and 10 percent for parsnips which fail to meet any specified maximum diameter.

§51.4011 U.S. No. 2.

“**U. S. No. 2**” consists of parsnips which are well trimmed, not badly misshapen, free from woodiness, soft rot and wet breakdown, and from serious damage caused by secondary roots, dirt, discoloration, bruises, cuts, rodents, growth cracks, pithiness, wilting, disease, insects, mechanical or other means.

- (a) Unless otherwise specified, the diameter of each parsnip shall be not less than 1-1/2 inches. The maximum diameter of the parsnips in any lot may be specified in terms of inches and quarter inches, in accordance with the facts.
- (b) **Tolerances.** In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, the following tolerances, by weight, are provided as specified:
 - (1) **For defects.** Ten percent for parsnips in any lot which fail to meet the requirements of this grade, including therein not more than 1 percent for parsnips affected by soft rot or wet breakdown.
 - (2) **For size.** Five percent for parsnips in any lot which fail to meet the specified minimum diameter and 10 percent for parsnips which fail to meet any specified maximum diameter.

Reserved

§51.4012 Reserved.

Application of Tolerances

§51.4013 Application of tolerances.

The contents of individual packages in the lot, are subject to the following limitations:

- (a) For a tolerance of 10 percent or more, individual packages in any lot shall have not more than one and one-half times the tolerance specified: *Provided*, That at least one defective and one off-size specimen may be permitted in any package: *And provided further*, That the average for the entire lot is within the tolerance specified.
- (b) For a tolerance of less than 10 percent, individual packages in any lot shall have not more than double the tolerance specified: *Provided*, That at least one defective and one off-size specimen may be permitted in any package: *And provided further*, That the average for the entire lot is within the tolerance specified.

Definitions

§51.4014 Well trimmed.

“**Well trimmed**” means that the tops shall be cut back to within 3/4 inch from the crown of the parsnip; except that occasional uncut leaves or leafstems or new top growth exceeding this length which does not materially damage the appearance of the lot shall be permitted.

§51.4015 Fairly well formed.

“**Fairly well formed**” means that the parsnip is not turnip shaped or so forked or misshapen as to materially affect its appearance or cause a loss of more than 5 percent, by weight, in the ordinary preparation for use.

§51.4016 Fairly smooth.

“**Fairly smooth**” means that the parsnip is not rough, ridged, or covered with secondary roots to an extent which materially affects its appearance or causes a loss of more than 5 percent, by weight, in the ordinary preparation for use.

§51.4017 Fairly clean.

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

§51.4018 Fairly firm.

“**Fairly firm**” means that the parsnip is not soft, materially flabby, or shriveled.

§51.4019 Damage.

“**Damage**” means any defect, or any combination of defects, which materially detracts from the appearance, or the edible or marketing quality of the individual parsnip, or the parsnips in the lot; or which causes a loss of more than 5 percent, by weight, of the parsnip in the ordinary preparation for use.

§51.4020 Badly misshapen.

“**Badly misshapen**” means that the parsnip is so badly crooked, twisted, forked, or otherwise so misshapen as to seriously affect its appearance or cause a loss of more than 10 percent, by weight, of the parsnip in the ordinary preparation for use.

§51.4021 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 individual parsnip or the parsnips in the lot; or which causes a loss of more than 10 percent, by weight, of the parsnip in the ordinary preparation for use.

§51.4022 Diameter.

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