



United States Department of Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Agricultural
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Service

Specialty
Crops
Program

Specialty
Crops
Inspection
Division

United States Standards for Grades of Raspberries for Processing

Effective September 6, 2015

This issue of the United States Standards for Grades of Raspberries for Processing (81 FR 51297) supersedes the previous issue which has been in effect since May 18, 1952.

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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United States Standards for Grades of Raspberries for Processing

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Grades

§51.1710 U.S. No. 1.

U.S. No. 1 consists of raspberries of similar varietal characteristics which are well colored and which are free from cores, mold or decay, and from dried and distinctly immature berries and from damage caused by overmaturity, crushing, shriveling, dirt, or other foreign matter, hail, sunscald, wind-whips, and other scars, moisture, birds, disease, insects, discoloration, mechanical or other means.

- (a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper handling, not more than a total of 5 percent, by weight, of the raspberries in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade: *Provided*, That, not more than one-fifth of this amount, or 1 percent, shall be allowed for raspberries affected by mold or decay, or which are seriously damaged by insects.

§51.1711 U.S. No. 2.

U.S. No. 2 consists of raspberries which meet the requirements for U.S. No. 1 grade except for the increased tolerances for defects specified as follows:

- (a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper handling, not more than a total of 10 percent, by weight, of the raspberries in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade: *Provided*, That, not more than one-fifth of this amount, or 2 percent, shall be allowed for raspberries affected by mold or decay, or which are seriously damaged by insects.

Reserved

§51.1712 Reserved.

Definitions

§51.1713 Similar varietal characteristics.

“**Similar varietal characteristics**” means that the raspberries are of the same general color. For example, black raspberries shall not be mixed with red or purple raspberries and red raspberries shall not be mixed with black or purple raspberries.

§51.1714 Well colored.

“**Well colored**” means that the whole surface of the berry has a bright, practically uniform, typical color characteristic of a mature berry for the variety.

§51.1715 Mold.

“**Mold**” means any surface mold that is plainly visible to the naked eye.

§51.1716 Dried.

“**Dried**” means appreciably lacking in juice. Dried berries are excessively seedy and often shriveled.

§51.1717 Distinctly immature.

“**Distinctly immature**” means that the berries are red, whitish, or green in the case of types or varieties which are characteristically purple or black, when well ripened; and that the berries are pinkish, whitish or green in the case of types or varieties which are characteristically red, when well ripened.

§51.1718 Damage.

“**Damage**” means any injury or defect which materially affects the appearance or the processing quality of the raspberries. The following shall be considered as damage:

- (a) Overmaturity, when the berry is leaking; when collapse or softness of the entire berry occurs; when a noticeable number of the drupelets of the berry have lost the bright luster characteristic of well colored berries; or when the epidermal hairs between the drupelets have become discolored.
- (b) Crushing, when more than one-fourth of the drupelets of the berry have been crushed.
- (c) Shriveling, when the berry is materially shriveled as evidenced by drying or undevelopment of more than one-fourth of the drupelets of the berry.
- (d) Dirt, when it cannot be removed from the berry in the ordinary washing process.

§51.1719 Seriously damaged by insects.

“**Seriously damaged by insects**” means the presence of one or more insects on the raspberry.