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# **United States Standards for Grades of Rhubarb (Field Grown)**

**Effective September 6, 2016**

This issue of the United States Standards for Grades of Rhubarb (81 FR 51297) supersedes the previous issue which has been in effect since February 1, 1966.

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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## **Grades**

### **§51.3665 U.S. Fancy.**

“**U.S. Fancy**” consists of stalks of rhubarb of similar varietal characteristics which are very well colored, fresh, tender, straight, clean, well trimmed and not pithy; which are free from decay, and free from damage caused by scars, freezing, disease, insects, or mechanical or other means. (See §51.3669.)

- (a) The diameter of each stalk is not less than 1 inch, and the length not less than 10 inches. (See §51.3669.)

### **§51.3666 U.S. No. 1.**

“**U.S. No. 1**” consists of stalks of rhubarb of similar varietal characteristics which are well colored, fresh, tender, straight, clean, well trimmed and not pithy; which are free from decay, and free from damage caused by scars, freezing, disease, insects or mechanical or other means. (See §51.3669.)

- (a) Unless otherwise specified, the diameter of each stalk is not less than three-fourths inch, and the length not less than 10 inches. (See §51.3669.)

### **§51.3667 U.S. No. 2.**

“**U.S. No. 2**” consists of stalks of rhubarb of similar varietal characteristics which are fairly well colored, fresh, fairly straight, clean, well trimmed and not pithy; which are free from decay, and free from serious damage caused by scars, freezing, disease, insects or mechanical or other means. (See §51.3669.)

- (a) Unless otherwise specified, the diameter of each stalk is not less than one-half inch, and the length not less than 8 inches. (See §51.3669.)

## **Reserved**

### **§51.3668 Reserved.**

## **Tolerances**

### **§51.3669 Tolerances.**

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling in each of the foregoing grades, the following tolerances, by count, are provided as specified:

- (a) **For defects.** 10 percent for stalks of rhubarb in any lot which fail to meet the requirements of the designated grade, including not more than one-tenth of this amount, or 1 percent, for stalks affected by decay.

- (b) **For size.** 5 percent for stalks of rhubarb in any lot which fail to meet the specified minimum diameter, and 5 percent for stalks of rhubarb in any lot which fail to meet the specified minimum length.

### **Application of Tolerances**

#### **§51.3670 Application of tolerances.**

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

- (a) For a tolerance of 10 percent, individual packages may contain not more than one and one-half times the tolerance: *Provided*, That the average for the entire lot is within the tolerance specified for the grade.
- (b) For a tolerance of 5 percent or less, individual packages may contain not more than double the tolerance specified: *Provided*, That at least one stalk which is defective and one stalk which is undersize may be permitted in any package: *And provided further*, That the averages for the entire lot are within the tolerances specified for the grade.

### **Definitions**

#### **§51.3671 Similar varietal characteristics.**

“**Similar varietal characteristics**” means that the rhubarb stalks are alike in general characteristics.

#### **§51.3672 Very well colored.**

“**Very well colored**” means that a pink or red color predominates on three-fourths or more of the length of the stalk.

#### **§51.3673 Well colored.**

“**Well colored**” means that a pink or red color predominates on one-half or more of the length of the stalk.

#### **§51.3674 Fairly well colored.**

“**Fairly well colored**” means that a pink or red color predominates on one-fourth or more of the length of the stalk.

#### **§51.3675 Fresh.**

“**Fresh**” means not limp or wilted.

**§51.3676 Straight.**

“**Straight**” means that the stalk has not more than a slight concave curvature of the face, and not more than slight twisting along the longitudinal axis of the stalk.

**§51.3677 Well trimmed.**

“**Well trimmed**” means that the top has been neatly knife-trimmed so that not more than 2 inches of the midribs and thin leaf tissue remains, and that most of the basal husk has been removed.

**§51.3678 Pithy.**

“**Pithy**” means that the stalk has an open texture with air spaces in the central portion.

**§51.3679 Damage.**

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

**§51.3680 Diameter.**

“**Diameter**” means the greatest distance across the flat face of the stalk at the center of its length.

**§51.3681 Length.**

“**Length**” means the overall length after the stalk has been well trimmed.

**§51.3682 Fairly straight.**

“**Fairly straight**” means that the stalk is not badly twisted or crooked.

**§51.3683 Serious damage.**

“**Serious damage**” means any defect or any combination of defects which seriously detracts from the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the stalk. Broken, badly bruised, and crushed stalks shall be considered as serious damage.