



United States Department of Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Agricultural
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Specialty
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Specialty
Crops
Inspection
Division

United States Consumer Standards for Fresh Parsnips

Effective March 23, 1954

Reprinted December 13, 2018

This is a reprint of the United States Consumer Standards for Fresh Parsnips which have been in effect since March 23, 1954 and were updated to modify the format.

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

§51.2310 U.S. Grade A.

U.S. Grade A consists of parsnips of similar varietal characteristics which are firm, clean, well trimmed, fairly well formed, fairly smooth; which are free from soft rot, and from damage caused by freezing, growth cracks, discoloration, pithiness, woodiness, sunburn, oil spray, dry rot, other disease, insects or mechanical or other means. Parsnips on the shown face shall be reasonably representative in size and quality of the contents of the container.

- (a)** Unless otherwise specified, the diameter of each parsnip shall be not less than 1 inch and not more than 2-1/4 inches.
- (b)** Incident to proper grading and handling the following tolerances, by count, shall be permitted in any lot:
 - (1)** 5 percent for parsnips which are smaller than the specified minimum diameter;
 - (2)** 5 percent for parsnips which are larger than the specified maximum diameter; and,
 - (3)** 5 percent for parsnips which fail to meet the remaining requirements of the grade, including therein not more than one-half of 1 percent for parsnips affected by soft rot.

§51.2311 U.S. Grade B.

U.S. Grade B consists of parsnips of similar varietal characteristics which are firm, clean, well trimmed, not badly deformed and not more than slightly rough; which are free from soft rot, and free from damage caused by freezing, growth cracks, discoloration, pithiness, woodiness, sunburn, oil spray, dry rot, other disease, insects or mechanical or other means. Parsnips on the shown face shall be reasonably representative in size and quality of the contents of the container.

- (a)** Unless otherwise specified, the diameter of each parsnip shall be not less than 1 inch and not more than 2-1/4 inches.
- (b)** Incident to proper grading and handling the following tolerances, by count, shall be permitted in any lot:
 - (1)** 5 percent for parsnips which are smaller than the specified minimum diameter;
 - (2)** 5 Percent for parsnips which are larger than the specified maximum diameter; and,

- (3) 10 percent parsnips which fail to meet the remaining requirements of the grade, including therein not more than one-half of 1 percent for parsnips affected by soft rot.

Off-grade

§51.2312 Off-grade.

“Off-grade” consists of parsnips which fail to meet the requirements of the forgoing grades.

Definitions

§51.2313 Similar varietal characteristics.

“Similar varietal characteristics” means that the parsnips in the lot are of the same general type.

§51.2314 Firm.

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

§51.2315 Clean.

“Clean” means that the individual parsnip is practically free from stain, dirt, and other foreign material.

§51.2316 Well trimmed.

“Well trimmed” means that the tops shall be cut back to not more than 1 inch in length. Roots may be clipped, if they are neatly cut off and the appearance is not materially affected by the removal of an excessive amount.

§51.2317 Fairly well formed.

“Fairly well formed” means that the root is not forked or so misshapen as to materially affect its appearance or cause a loss of more than 3 percent, by weight, in the ordinary preparation for use.

§51.2318 Fairly smooth.

“Fairly smooth” means that the root is not rough, ridged or covered with secondary rootlets to an extent which materially affects its appearance or causes a loss of more than 3 percent, by weight, in the ordinary preparation for use.

§51.2319 Damage.

“Damage” means any defect which materially affects the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the individual parsnip or parsnips in the lot, or cause a loss of more than 3 percent, by weight, in the ordinary preparation for use. 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** when deep or rough, or when appearance of the parsnips is materially affected;
- (b) **Discoloration** when materially affecting the appearance of the root or when it causes a loss of more than 3 percent, by weight, in the ordinary preparation for use; and,
- (c) **Sunburn** when causing 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.

§51.2320 Diameter.

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

§51.2321 Badly deformed.

“Badly deformed” means that the parsnip root is so forked or badly misshapen as to seriously affect the appearance or cause a loss of more than 5 percent, by weight, in the ordinary preparation for use.

§51.2322 Slightly rough.

“Slightly rough” means that the parsnips root is not rough, ridged or covered with secondary rootlets to an extent which seriously affects its appearance or causes a loss of more than 5 percent, by weight, in the ordinary preparation for use.