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Division

United States Consumer Standards for Fresh Turnips

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This is a reprint of the United States Consumer Standards for Fresh Turnips which have been in effect since August 20, 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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Styles

§51.2425 Bunched turnips.

“Bunched turnips” means turnips with full length tops which are tied in bunches.

§51.2426 Bunched turnips with clipped tops.

“Bunched turnips with clipped tops” means turnips with tops clipped back to not less than 6 inches in length which are tied in bunches.

§51.2427 Topped turnips.

“Topped turnips” means turnips with the tops removed to not more than three-fourths inch in length.

Grades

§51.2428 U.S. Grade A.

“U.S. Grade A” consists of turnips of similar varietal characteristics the roots of which are clean, firm, smooth, well formed, well trimmed and free from soft rot and free from damage caused by cuts, discoloration, freezing, growth cracks, oil spray, pithiness, woodiness, watercore, dry rot, other disease, insects, or mechanical or other means. Bunched turnips or bunched turnips with clipped tops shall have tops which are fresh and free from decay and free from damage caused by freezing, seedstems, yellowing or other discoloration, disease, insects, or mechanical or other means. Turnips 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 turnip root shall be not less than 1-3/4 inches nor more than 2-3/4 inches.
- (b)** Incident to proper grading and handling, the following tolerances shall be permitted:
 - (1)** For defects of roots. 5 percent, by count, for turnip roots in any lot which fail to meet the requirements of the grade, including therein not more than 1 percent for soft rot;
 - (2)** For defects of tops of bunched turnips. 5 percent, by count, for bunches in any lot which fail to meet the requirements of the grade, including therein not more than 2 percent for decay;
 - (3)** For off-length tops. 5 percent, by count, for bunches in any lot which fail to meet the requirements of the style specified in connection with the lot; and,

- (4) For off-size roots. 5 percent, by count, for turnip roots in any lot which are smaller than the specified minimum diameter, and 10 percent, by count, for turnip roots which are larger than the specified maximum diameter.

§51.2429 U.S. Grade B.

“U.S. Grade B” consists of turnips of similar varietal characteristics the roots of which are clean, firm, fairly smooth, fairly well formed, well trimmed and free from soft rot and free from damage caused by cuts, discoloration, freezing, growth cracks, oil spray, pithiness, woodiness, watercore, dry rot, other disease, insects, or mechanical or other means. Bunched turnips or bunched turnips with clipped tops shall have tops which are fresh and free from decay and free from damage caused by freezing, seedstems, yellowing or other discoloration, disease, insects, or mechanical or other means. Turnips 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 turnip root shall be not less than 1-3/4 inches nor more than 2-3/4 inches.
- (b) Incident to proper grading and handling, the following tolerances shall be permitted:
 - (1) For defects of roots. 10 percent, by count, for turnip roots in any lot which fail to meet the requirements of the grade, including therein not more than 1 percent for soft rot;
 - (2) For defects of tops of bunched turnips. 10 percent, by count, for bunches in any lot which fail to meet the requirements of the grade, including therein not more than 5 percent for decay;
 - (3) For off-length tops. 10 percent, by count, for bunches in any lot which fail to meet the requirements of the style specified in connection with the lot; and,
 - (4) For off-size roots. 5 percent, by count, for turnip roots in any lot which are smaller than the specified minimum diameter, and 10 percent, by count, for turnip roots which are larger than the specified maximum diameter.

Off-Grade

§51.2430 Off-Grade.

“Off-Grade” consists of turnips which fail to meet the requirements of either of the foregoing grades.

Standard Bunching

§51.2431 Standard bunching.

- (a) Standard bunches of turnips shall be fairly uniform in size, contain at least 3 turnips and weigh not less than one pound.
- (b) Incident to proper bunching, not more than 10 percent, by count, of the bunches in any lot may fail to meet the requirements for "Standard Bunching."

Definitions

§51.2432 Similar varietal characteristics.

"Similar varietal characteristics" means that the turnips in any lot are similar in color and shape; for example, yellow-fleshed varieties shall not be mixed with white-fleshed varieties and flat varieties and long varieties shall not be mixed.

§51.2433 Clean.

"Clean" means that the individual turnip is practically free from dirt or other foreign material.

§51.2434 Firm.

"Firm" means that the turnip is not soft, flabby or shriveled.

§51.2435 Smooth.

"Smooth" means that the root is not rough or ridged to the extent that the appearance is materially affected.

§51.2436 Well formed.

"Well formed" means that root is not misshapen to the extent that the appearance is materially affected.

§51.2437 Well trimmed.

"Well trimmed" means that unattractive secondary rootlets and any objectionably long or coarse tail-like part of the root has been cut off.

§51.2438 Damage.

"Damage" means any defect which materially affects the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the individual root, or roots in the lot, or causes a loss of more than 3 percent, by weight, in the ordinary preparation for use, or which materially affects the appearance or shipping quality of the tops of bunches in the lot. 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) **Cuts** when discolored, rough or deep, or when the appearance is materially affected;
- (b) **Growth cracks** which are not shallow and not smooth or which materially affect the appearance of the turnip;
- (c) **Pithiness** when the edible quality is materially affected by pith;
- (d) **Insects or insect injury** when the appearance or edible quality is materially affected, or when the tops are affected to the extent that the appearance of the bunch is materially affected; and,
- (e) **Yellowing or other discoloration** or injury to the tops when the appearance of the bunch is materially affected. The appearance of the bunch with tops having slight discoloration such as yellowing, browning, or other abnormal color affecting a few leaves shall not be considered materially affected if the tops as a whole show a predominantly normal green color.

§51.2439 Fresh.

“Fresh” means that the tops are of normal green color and not badly wilted.

§51.2440 Diameter.

“Diameter” means the greatest dimension of the root measured at right angles to a line running from the crown to the base of the root.

§51.2441 Fairly smooth.

“Fairly smooth” means that the root is not rough or ridged to the extent that the appearance is seriously affected.

§51.2442 Fairly well formed.

“Fairly well formed” means that the root is not misshapen to the extent that the appearance is seriously affected.