



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Agricultural
Marketing
Service**

**Fruit and
Vegetable
Division**

**Fresh
Products
Branch**

United States Standards for Grades of Greenhouse Leaf Lettuce

Effective September 1, 1964
(Reprinted - January 1997)

United States Standards for Grades of Greenhouse Leaf Lettuce¹

Grades

51.3455 U.S. Fancy.

51.3456 U.S. No. 1.

Unclassified

51.3457 Unclassified.

Tolerances

51.3458 Tolerances.

Application of Tolerances

51.3459 Application of tolerances.

Definitions

51.3460 Similar varietal characteristics.

51.3461 Well grown.

51.3462 Well trimmed.

51.3463 Fairly well trimmed.

51.3464 Injury.

51.3465 Damage.

51.3466 Serious damage.

Grades

§51.3455 U.S. Fancy.

"U.S. Fancy" consists of plants of leaf lettuce of similar varietal characteristics which are well grown, well trimmed and free from decay and which are free from injury caused by coarse stems, bleached or discolored leaves, sprayburn, dirt, wilting, freezing, disease, insects, or other means.

§51.3456 U.S. No. 1.

"U.S. No. 1" consists of plants of leaf lettuce of similar varietal characteristics which are well grown, fairly well trimmed and free from decay and which are free from damage caused by coarse stems, bleached or discolored leaves, sprayburn, dirt, wilting, freezing, disease, insects, or other means.

Unclassified

§51.3457 Unclassified.

"Unclassified" consists of plants of leaf lettuce which have not been classified in accordance with any of the foregoing grades. The term "unclassified" is not a grade within the meaning of these standards but is provided as a designation to show that no grade has been applied to the lot.

Tolerances

§51.3458 Tolerances.

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, the following tolerances

¹Compliance 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.

by count, shall be permitted in any lot:

(a) **U.S. Fancy and U.S. No. 1 grades.** 10 percent for plants of leaf lettuce which fail to meet the requirements of the grade: **Provided**, That included in this amount not more than 5 percent shall be allowed for defects causing serious damage, including in this latter amount not more than 1 percent for plants affected by decay.

Application of Tolerances

§51.3459 Application of tolerances.

The contents of individual packages in the lot based on sample inspection, are subject to the following limitations: **Provided**, That the averages for the entire lot are within the tolerances specified for the grade:

(a) For packages which contain more than 15 plants, and a tolerance of 10 percent or more is provided, individual packages in any lot shall have not more than one and one-half times the tolerance specified.

(b) For packages which contain more than 15 plants and a tolerance of less than 10 percent is provided, and for packages which contain 15 plants or less, individual packages in any lot shall have not more than double the tolerance specified, except that at least 1 defective plant may be permitted in any package.

Definitions

§51.3460 Similar varietal characteristics.

"Similar varietal characteristics" means that the plants in any container are of the same general type.

§51.3461 Well grown.

"Well grown" means that the plant is not stunted or poorly developed.

§51.3462 Well trimmed.

"Well trimmed" means that the stem is trimmed off to within three-fourths inch of the point of attachment of the first whorl of leaves and that leaves which are more than slightly bleached or discolored have been removed.

§51.3463 Fairly well trimmed.

"Fairly well trimmed" means that the stem is trimmed off to within three-fourths inch of the point of attachment of the first whorl of leaves and that leaves which are materially bleached or discolored have been removed.

§51.3464 Injury.

"Injury" means any specific defect described in this section; or an equally objectionable variation of this defect, any other defect, or any combination of defects, which noticeably detracts from the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the lettuce. The following specific defect shall be considered as injury:

(a) Stems when more than 2-1/2 inches in length, measured from the end of the butt to the point of attachment of the last whorl of leaves.

§51.3465 Damage.

"Damage" means any specific defect described in this section; or an equally objectionable variation of this defect, any other defect, or any combination of defects, which materially detracts from the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the lettuce. The following specific defect shall be considered as damage:

(a) Stems when more than 3-1/2 inches in length, measured from the end of the butt to the point of attachment of the last whorl of leaves.

§51.3466 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 lettuce.