



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Agricultural
Marketing
Service**

**Fruit and
Vegetable
Division**

**Fresh
Products
Branch**

United States Standards for Grades of Blueberries for Processing

Effective August 5, 1950
(Reprinted - January 1997)

United States Standards for Grades of Blueberries for Processing ¹

General

51.2025 General.

Grades

51.2026 U.S. No. 1.

51.2027 U.S. No. 2.

51.2028 U.S. No. 3.

Unclassified

51.2029 Unclassified.

Definitions

51.2030 Other kinds of berries.

51.2031 Clusters.

51.2032 Large stems.

51.2033 Other foreign material.

51.2034 Distinctly immature berries.

51.2035 Damage.

51.2036 Serious damage.

51.2037 Very serious damage caused by shriveling.

General

§51.2025 General.

These standards apply to species of the genus *Vaccinium* which contain numerous small seeds that are barely noticeable and not to the true huckleberries of the genus *Gaylussacia* which contain 10 large seeds with bony coverings.

Grades

§51.2026 U.S. No. 1.

U.S. No. 1 shall consist of blueberries which internally are free from worms, and are free from other kinds of berries, clusters, large stems, leaves and other foreign material, distinctly immature berries, and free from damage caused by visible mold and decay, shriveling, dirt, overmaturity, or other means.

(a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper handling, the following tolerances shall be permitted for grade defects in a half-pint cup sample:

(b) Not more than a total of 5 leaves and other foreign material, not more than a total of 20 distinctly immature berries, clusters and large stems, and not more than 3 berries other than blueberries. No tolerance shall be allowed for large pieces of foreign material.

§51.2027 U.S. No. 2.

U.S. No. 2 shall consist of blueberries which meet all the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade except

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.

that the blueberries shall be free from serious damage caused by shriveling, overmaturity, and except for the increased tolerances specified in this section.

(a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper handling, the following tolerances shall be permitted for grade defects in a half-pint cup sample:

(1) Not more than a total of 15 leaves and other foreign material, not more than a total of 40 distinctly immature berries, clusters, and large stems, and not more than 5 berries other than blueberries. No tolerance shall be allowed for large pieces of foreign material.

§51.2028 U.S. No. 3.

U.S. No. 3 shall consist of blueberries which meet all the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade except that the blueberries shall be free from serious damage caused by overmaturity and from very serious damage caused by shriveling and except for the increased tolerances specified in this section.

(a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper handling, the following tolerances shall be permitted for grade defects in a half-pint cup sample:

(1) Not more than a total of 20 leaves and other foreign material, not more than a total of 70 distinctly immature berries, clusters and large stems, and not more than 12 berries other than blueberries. No tolerance shall be allowed for large pieces of foreign material.

Unclassified

§51.2029 Unclassified.

Unclassified shall consist of blueberries which have not been classified in accordance with 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 definite grade has been applied to the lot.

Definitions

§51.2030 Other kinds of berries.

"Other kinds of berries" means bunchberries, cranberries, or any other berries not of the genus *Vaccinium*.

§51.2031 Clusters.

"Clusters" means three or more capstems, with or without berries, attached to a main stem. Capstems are those small stems by means of which the individual berry is attached to the main stem.

§51.2032 Large stems.

"Large stems" means stems other than capstems which are over 1/4 inch in length.

§51.2033 Other foreign material.

"Other foreign material" means sticks, stones, moss or other extraneous material except dirt and leaves.

§51.2034 Distinctly immature berries.

"Distinctly immature berries" means that the berries are green, or whitish due to immaturity.

§51.2035 Damage.

"Damage" means any injury or defect which materially affects the appearance, or the processing quality of the blueberries. The following shall be considered as damage:

(a) Shriveling, when more than one-fourth of the blueberries in any lot, by volume, are badly wilted, withered or shriveled.

(b) Dirt, when it cannot be removed from the blueberries in the ordinary washing process.

(c) Overmaturity, when the appearance and processing quality of the lot of blueberries is materially affected by berries which have a dull appearance and are sticky from leaking berries.

§51.2036 Serious damage.

"Serious damage" means any injury or defect which seriously affects the appearance, or the processing quality of the blueberries. The following shall be considered as serious damage:

(a) Shriveling, when more than one-third of the blueberries in any lot, by volume, are badly wilted, withered or shriveled.

(b) Overmaturity, when the appearance and processing quality of the lot of blueberries is seriously affected by blueberries which have a dull appearance and are sticky from leaking berries.

§51.2037 Very serious damage caused by shriveling.

"Very serious damage caused by shriveling" means that more than one-half of the blueberries in any lot, by volume, are badly wilted, withered or shriveled.