THE GIUMARRA COMPANIES
nature's partner

February 16, 2004

Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
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The Giumarra Companies appreciates the opportunity the express our support for the establishment of U.S. standards for grades of mangos. We are importers of fresh mangos from Brazil into the U.S.

The Giumarra Companies believe it is extremely important that mango grade standards include sizing definitions and that sizing definitions be specific to the different mango varieties. In addition, a mango grade standard should address physical condition defects and, if applicable, how certain physical condition defects may apply differently for different varieties.

We support the idea of establishing maturity standards as part of a grade standard. We understand the difficulty in establishing maturity standards that make sense for all shipping areas and varieties as mangos continue to ripen after harvest. However, we believe that finding a sensible way to measure maturity is worth exploring.

Mango grade standards will give the Giumarra Companies the ability to effectively and consistently provide our retail and food service customers with mangos that have measurable quality standards. If I can be of further assistance during this process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Walter Ram
Director of Food Safety