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# **United States Standards for Grades of Brussels Sprouts**

**Effective September 6, 2016**

This issue of the United States Standards for Grades of Brussels Sprouts (81 FR 51297) supersedes the previous issue which has been in effect since January 18, 1954.

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

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**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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## United States Standards for Grades of Brussels Sprouts

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## **Grades**

### **§51.2250 U.S. No. 1.**

**U.S. No. 1** consists of Brussels sprouts which are well colored, firm, not withered or burst, which are free from soft decay and seedstems, and free from damage caused by discoloration, dirt or other foreign material, freezing, disease, insects, or mechanical or other means.

- (a) Unless otherwise specified, the diameter of each Brussels sprout shall be not less than one inch, and the length shall be not more than 2-3/4 inches.
- (b) In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, other than for size, not more than a total of 10 percent, by weight, of the Brussels sprouts in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of the grade: *Provided*, That not more than one-fifth of this amount, or 2 percent, shall be allowed for soft decay. In addition, not more than a total of 5 percent, by weight, of the Brussels sprouts in any lot may be smaller than the specified minimum diameter, and not more than 10 percent may be longer than the specified maximum length.

### **§51.2251 U.S. No. 2.**

**U.S. No. 2** consists of Brussels sprouts which are fairly well colored, fairly firm, not withered or burst, which are free from soft decay and seedstems, and free from damage caused by insects, and free from serious damage caused by discoloration, dirt or other foreign material, freezing, disease or mechanical or other means.

- (a) Unless otherwise specified, the diameter of each Brussels sprout shall be not less than one inch, and the length shall be not more than 2-3/4 inches.
- (b) In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, other than for size, not more than a total of 10 percent, by weight, of the Brussels sprouts in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of the grade: *Provided*, That not more than one-fifth of this amount, or 2 percent, shall be allowed for soft decay. In addition, not more than a total of 5 percent, by weight, of the Brussels sprouts in any lot may be smaller than the specified minimum diameter, and not more than 10 percent may be longer than the specified maximum length.

## **Reserved**

### **§51.2252 Reserved.**

## **Application of Tolerances**

### **§51.2253 Application of tolerances.**

- (a) 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:

- (1) For a tolerance of 10 percent or more, individual packages in any lot may contain not more than one and one-half times the tolerance specified; and,
- (2) For a tolerance of less than 10 percent, individual packages in any lot may contain not more than double the tolerance specified, except that at least one defective and one off-size specimen may be permitted in any package.

**§51.2254 Basis for calculating percentages.**

Percentages shall be calculated on the basis of weight or an equivalent basis.

**Definitions**

**§51.2255 Well colored.**

“**Well colored**” means that the Brussels sprout has a light green or a darker shade of green color characteristic of well-grown Brussels sprouts.

**§51.2256 Firm.**

“**Firm**” means that the Brussels sprout is of reasonable solidity and is fairly compact but may yield slightly to moderate pressure.

**§51.2257 Seedstems.**

“**Seedstems**” means Brussels sprouts which have seedstalks showing or in which the formation of seedstalks has plainly begun.

**§51.2258 Damage.**

“**Damage**” means any defect which materially affects the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the Brussels sprout. 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) Discoloration when the appearance is materially affected by discolored leaves or parts of leaves; and,
- (b) Insects when there is more than slight aphid infestation within the compact portion of the head, or when the outer leaves are badly infested by them; or when slugs, worms or worm frass are present, or when the appearance is materially affected by slug or worm injury.

**§51.2259 Diameter.**

“**Diameter**” means the greatest dimension measured at right angles to a line running

from the stem to the apex of the Brussels sprout.

**§51.2260 Fairly well colored.**

“**Fairly well colored**” means that the Brussels sprout shall not be lighter than yellowish-green color.

**§51.2261 Fairly firm.**

“**Fairly firm**” means that the Brussels sprout is not soft or puffy and is of reasonable weight for its size but may have considerable open spaces between the leaves in the lower portion of the head.

**§51.2262 Serious damage.**

“**Serious damage**” means any defect which seriously affects the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the Brussels sprout.