



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Agricultural
Marketing
Service**

**Fruit and
Vegetable
Division**

**Fresh
Products
Branch**

United States Standards for Grades of Greenhouse Cucumbers

Effective September 5, 1985
(Reprinted - January 1997)

United States Standards for Grades of Greenhouse Cucumbers

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§51.3855 General.

Compliance with the provisions of these standards shall not excuse failure to comply with provisions of applicable Federal or State laws.

§51.3856 Grades.

(a) "U.S. Fancy" consists of cucumbers which meet the following requirements:

(1) Basic requirements:

(i) Clean;

(ii) Well formed;

(iii) Well colored;

(iv) Fresh; and,

(v) Firm.

(2) Free from: Decay, cuts or mechanical injury.

(3) Free from injury by:

(i) Scars;

(ii) Freezing;

(iii) Mosaic or other diseases; and,

(iv) Insects or other means.

(4) Size: Unless otherwise specified, the minimum length shall be not less than 11 inches.

(5) Tolerances: (See §51.3857)

(b) "U.S. No. 1" consists of cucumbers which meet the following requirements:

(1) Basic requirements:

(i) Clean;

(ii) Fairly well formed;

(iii) Fairly well colored;

(iv) Fresh; and,

(v) Firm.

(2) Free from: Decay and unhealed cuts.

(3) Free from damage by:

(i) Scars;

- (ii) Freezing;
- (iii) Mosaic or other diseases;
- (iv) Insects; and,
- (v) Mechanical or other means.
- (4) Size: Unless otherwise specified, the minimum length shall be not less than 11 inches.
- (5) Tolerances: (See §51.3857)
- (c) "U.S. No. 2" consists of cucumbers which meet the following requirements:
 - (1) Basic requirements:
 - (i) Clean;
 - (ii) Not badly deformed;
 - (iii) Fairly well colored;
 - (iv) Fresh; and,
 - (v) Firm.
 - (2) Free from: Decay and unhealed cuts.
 - (3) Free from serious damage by:
 - (i) Scars;
 - (ii) Freezing;
 - (iii) Mosaic or other diseases;
 - (iv) Insects; and,
 - (v) Mechanical or other means.
 - (4) Size: Unless otherwise specified, the minimum length shall be not less than 11 inches.
 - (5) Tolerances: (See §51.3857)

§51.3857 Tolerances.

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling in the foregoing grades the following tolerances, by count, shall be permitted in any lot:

- (a) **For defects.** Ten percent for cucumbers in any lot which fail to meet the requirements of the specified grade: Provided, that included in this amount not more than 1 percent for decay.
- (b) **For off-size.** Five percent for cucumbers in any lot which are below a specified minimum length and 5 percent for cucumbers longer than a specified maximum length.

§51.3858 Application of tolerances.

When packed in containers the contents shall be the sample, when in bulk or bulk bins the sample shall consist of at least 25 cucumbers. Individual samples are subject to the following limitations:

- (a) For a tolerance of 10 percent or more, individual samples may contain not more than one and one-half times the tolerance specified except that when the lot consists of containers with 18 cucumbers or less, individual containers may contain not more than double the tolerance specified: and provided, that the average is within the specified lot tolerance.
- (b) For a tolerance of less than 10 percent, individual samples may contain not more than double the tolerance specified: Provided, that at least one defective and one off-size cucumber may be permitted in any sample: and provided further, that the average is within the specified lot tolerance.

§51.3859 Standard pack.

- (a) Each cucumber shall be completely enclosed in a shrink wrapper.
- (b) Cucumbers shall be fairly uniform in size and packed fairly tight in layers in containers

according to approved and recognized methods.

(1) Fairly uniform in size means that not more than 10 percent, by count, of the cucumbers in any container shall vary more than 2 inches in length.

(2) In order to allow for variations incident to proper packing, not more than 10 percent, by count, of the containers in any lot may fail to meet these requirements.

§51.3860 Definitions.

(a) "Clean" means practically free from dirt or other foreign material.

(b) "Fresh" means bright, not wilted, yellow or exhibiting other symptoms of aging.

(c) "Well formed" means that the shape shall be fairly straight and not more than slightly tapered at one or both ends.

(d) "Fairly well formed" means not materially curved, constricted, or pointed at one or both ends, or otherwise materially misshapen.

(e) "Badly deformed" means badly curved, beaked, bottlenecked, constricted, or otherwise so badly misshapen that the appearance is seriously affected.

(f) "Well colored" means a characteristic green color over practically the entire surface.

(g) "Fairly well colored" means a characteristic green color over two-thirds or more of the surface except for areas affected by foliage shading.

(h) "Injury" means any defect described in §51.3863 or an equally objectionable variation of any one of these defects, any other defect, or any combination of defects, which slightly detracts from the appearance, or the edible or marketing quality.

(i) "Damage" means any defect described in §51.3863 or an equally objectionable variation of any one of these defects, any other defect, or any combination of defects, which materially detracts from the appearance, or the edible or marketing quality.

(j) "Serious damage" means any defect described in §51.3863 or an equally objectionable variation of any one of these defects, any other defect, or any combination of defects, which seriously detracts from the appearance, or the edible or marketing quality.

§51.3861 Permanent defects.

"Permanent defects" means defects which are not subject to change during shipping or storage; including, but not limited to factors of shape, scars, or growth cracks and cuts which are so located as to indicate that they occurred prior to packing.

§51.3862 Condition defects.

"Condition defects" means defects which may develop or change during shipment or storage; including, but not limited to decay, soft or yellowing and bruises which are so located as to indicate that they occurred after packing.

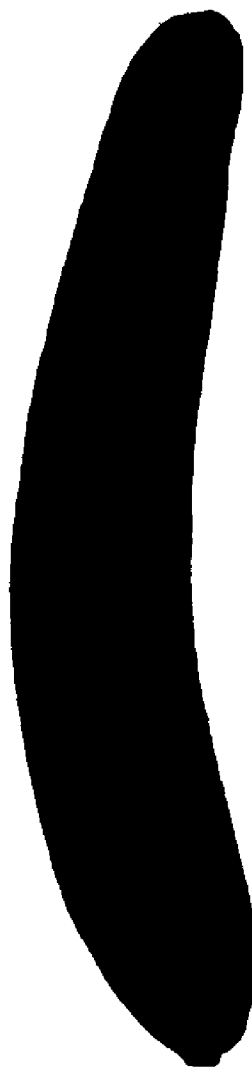
§51.3863 Classification of defects.

Defects	Injury ¹	Damage ¹	Serious damage ¹
Bruises.....	When any indentation is more than 1/16 inch (1.6mm) in depth or exceeds an area of a circle 1/2 inch (12.7mm) in diameter.	When any indentation is more than 1/8 inch (3.2mm) in depth or exceeds an area of a circle 3/4 inch (19.1mm) in diameter.	When any indentation is more than 1/4 inch (6.4mm) in depth or exceeds an area of a circle 1 inch (25.4mm) in diameter.
Insects.....	When feeding injury is evident or any insect is present.	When feeding injury materially detracts from appearance or any insect is present.	When feeding injury seriously detracts from appearance or any insect is present.
Scars.....	When not smooth, or not light colored, and aggregating more than the area of a circle 3/8 inch (9.5mm) in diameter; or smooth and light colored and aggregating more than the area of a circle 3/4 inch (19.1mm) in diameter.	When not smooth, or not light colored, and aggregating more than the area of a circle 1/2 inch (12.7mm) in diameter: or smooth and light colored and aggregating more than the area of a circle 1-1/2 inch (38.1mm) in diameter.	When dark or slightly rough or barklike scars aggregate more than a circle 3/4 inch (19.1mm) in diameter; or smooth and light colored and aggregating more than the area of a circle 2 inches (50.8mm) in diameter.

¹Defect classifications are based on a cucumber 11 inches in length. Correspondingly larger areas are permitted on longer cucumbers and smaller areas on shorter cucumbers.



U.S. Fancy

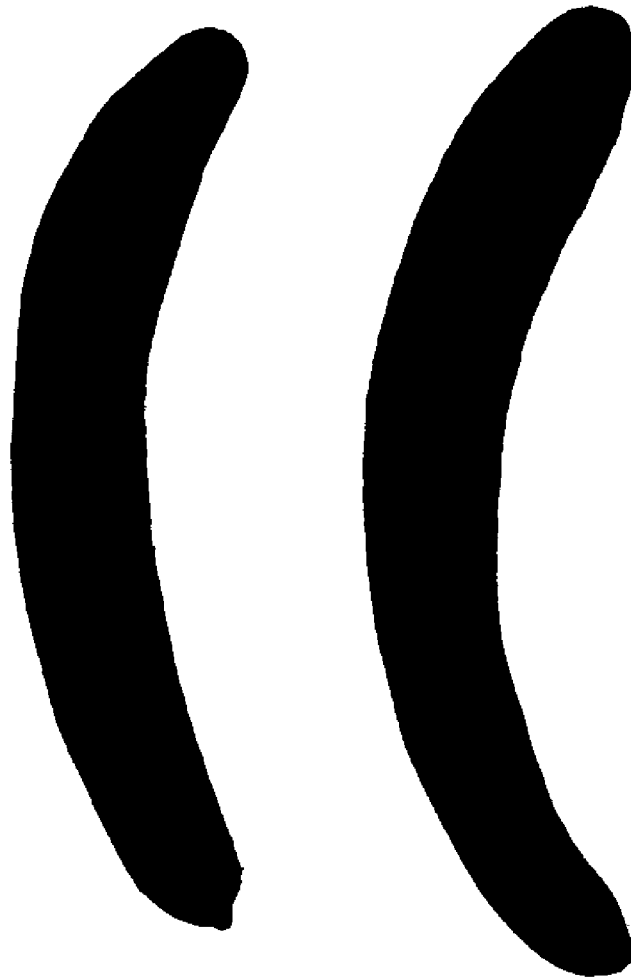


U.S. Fancy, Lower Limit

(about 1/3 actual size)

BOWING

Illustration CUXGH 1



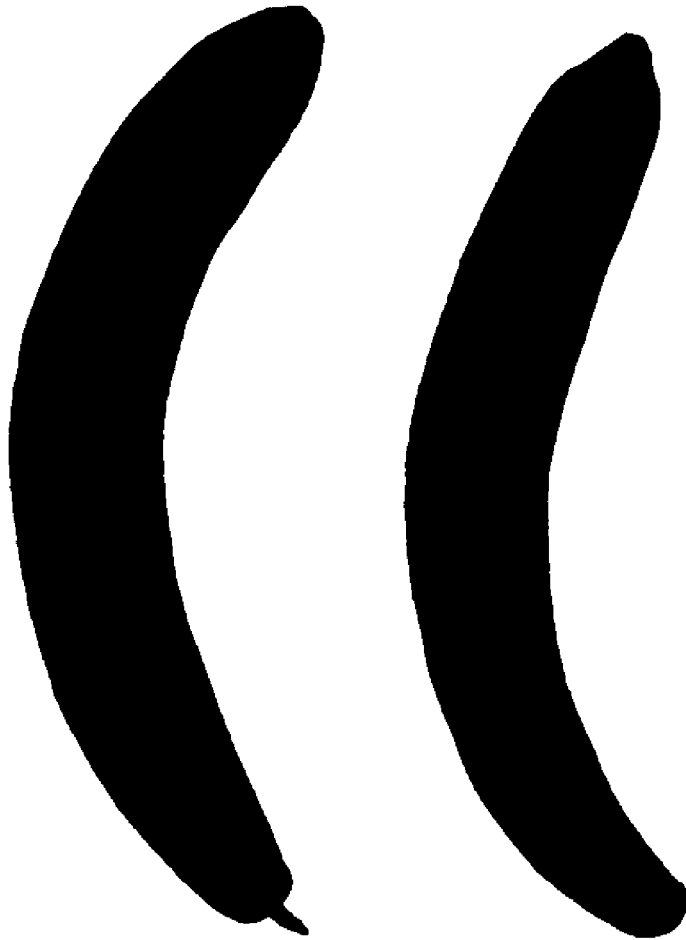
U.S. No. 1, Lower Limit

U.S. No. 2

(about 1/3 actual size)

BOWING

Illustration CUXGH 2



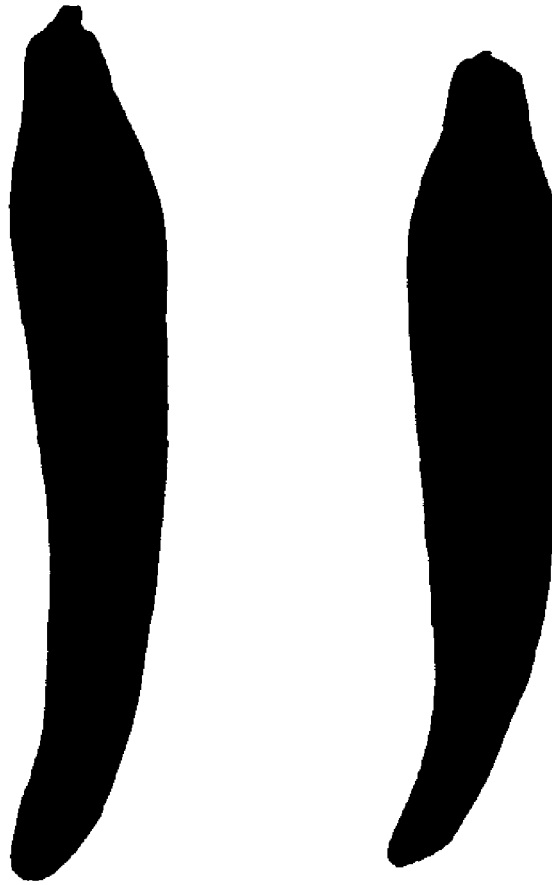
U.S. No. 2

U.S. No. 2

(about 1/3 actual size)

BOWING

Illustration CUXGH 3



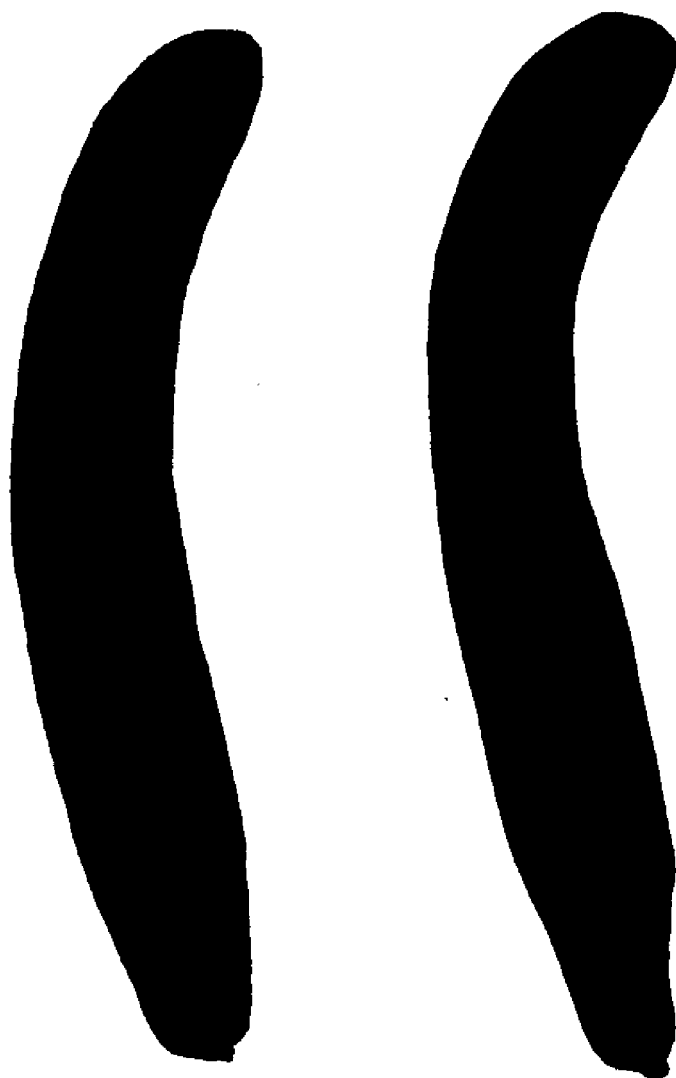
U.S. No. 1, Lower Limit

U.S. No. 2

(about 1/3 actual size)

**TAPERING AND CURVED ON
BLOSSOM END**

Illustration CUXGH 4



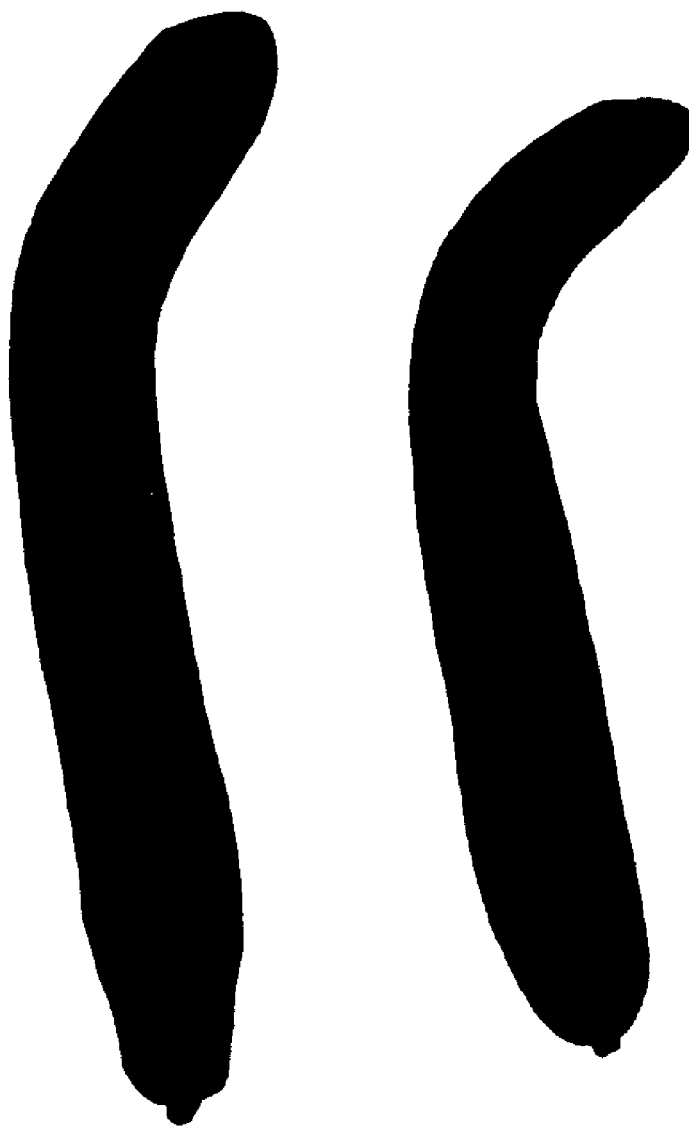
U.S. No. 1

U.S. No. 2

(about 1/3 actual size)

CURVED ON BLOSSOM END

Illustration CUXGH 5



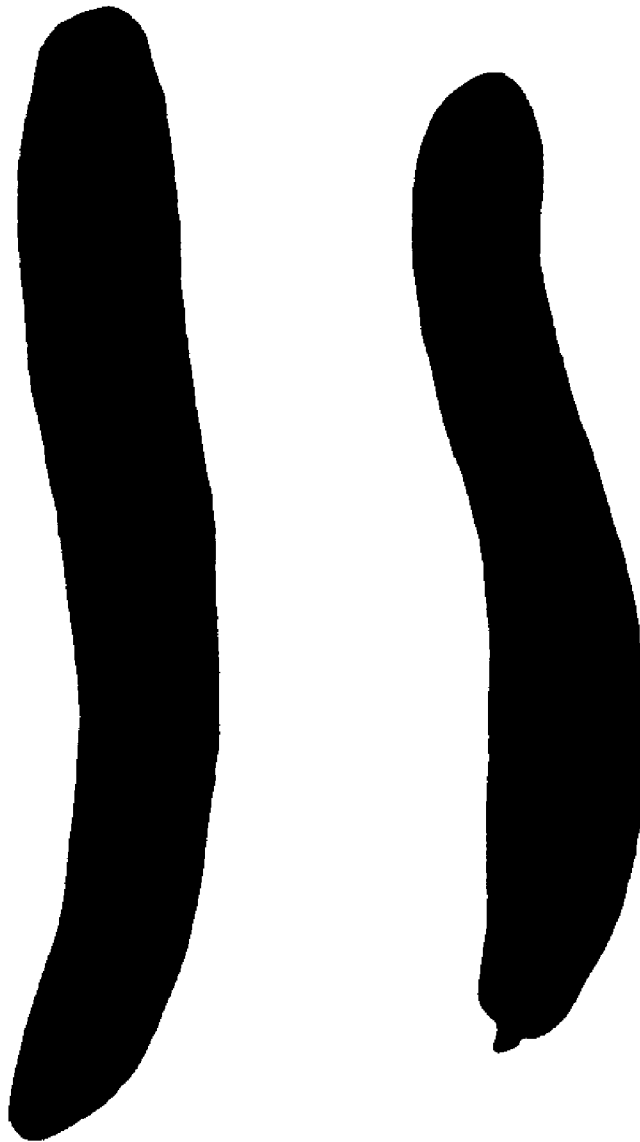
U.S. No. 2

U.S. No. 2, Lower Limit

(about 1/3 actual size)

CURVED ON BLOSSOM END

Illustration CUXGH 6



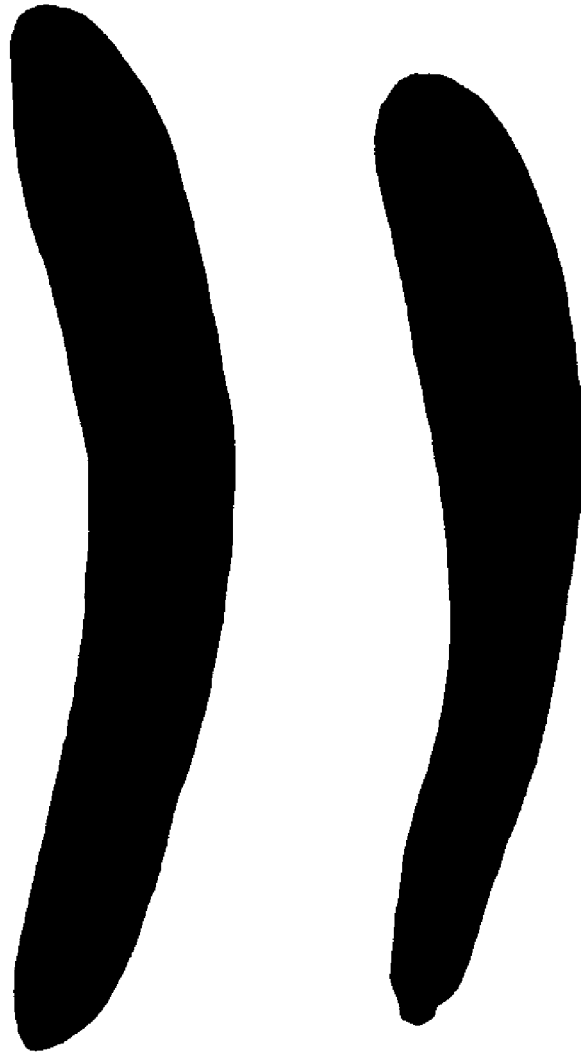
U.S. Fancy, Lower Limit

U.S. No. 2

(about 1/3 actual size)

COMBINATION CURVING

Illustration CUXGH 7



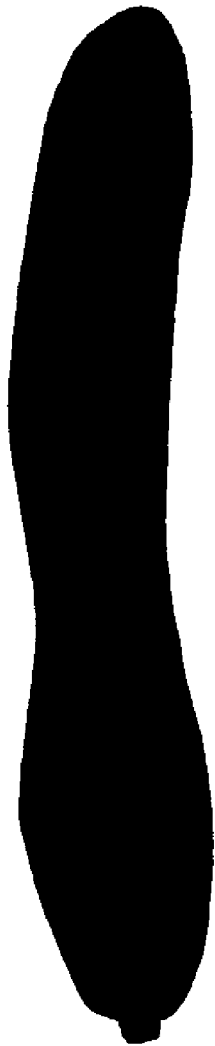
U.S. No. 1

U.S. No. 2

(about 1/3 actual size)

BOWING AND TAPERING

Illustration CUXGH 8



U.S. No. 2



U.S. No. 2, Lower Limit

(about 1/3 actual size)

DUMBBELL SHAPED

Illustration CUXGH 9