United States Standards for Grades of Dewberries and Blackberries

Effective September 6, 2016
This issue of the United States Standards for Grades of Dewberries and Blackberries (81 FR 51297) supersedes the previous issue which has been in effect since February 13, 1928.

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


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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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
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Grades

§51.4270 U.S. No. 1.

“U.S. No. 1” consists of dewberries or blackberries of one variety which are firm, well colored, well developed and not overripe, which are free from caps (calyces), mold and decay, and from damage caused by dirt or other foreign matter, shriveling, moisture, disease, insects, mechanical or other means.

(a) Tolerances. In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 10 percent, by volume, of the berries in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade, including therein not more than 5 percent for defects causing serious damage, and including in this latter amount not more than 1 percent for berries which are affected by mold or decay.

§51.4271 U.S. No. 2.

“U.S. No. 2” consists of dewberries or blackberries of one variety which fail to meet the requirements of the U.S. No. 1 grade but which do not contain more than 10 percent, by volume, of berries in any lot which are seriously damaged by any cause, including therein not more than 2 percent for berries which are affected by mold or decay.

Reserved

§51.4272 Reserved.

Definitions

§51.4273 Well colored.

“Well colored” means that the whole surface of the berry shall be a blue or black color.

§51.4274 Well developed.

“Well developed” means that the berries shall not be misshapen owing to anthracnose injury, frost injury, lack of pollination, insect injury, or other causes.

§51.4275 Overripe.

“Overripe” means dead ripe or soft, necessitating immediate consumption.

§51.4276 Damage.

“Damage” means any defect, or any combination of defects, which materially detracts from the appearance, or the edible or marketing quality of the berry.

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§51.4277 Serious damage.

“Serious damage” means any defect, or any combination of defects, which seriously detracts from the appearance, or the edible or marketing quality of the berry. Berries which are badly deformed, crushed, leaky, moldy, decayed, or which have less than one-half of the surface covered with a blue or black color shall be considered as seriously damaged.