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Marketing and
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Programs

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Service

Specialty
Crops
Program

Specialty
Crops
Inspection
Division

United States Standards for Grades of Mustard Greens and Turnip Greens

Effective September 6, 2016

This issue of the United States Standards for Grades of Mustard Greens and Turnip Greens (81 FR 51297) supersedes the previous issue which has been in effect since March 8, 1953.

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

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 Mustard Greens and Turnip Greens

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General
§51.1030 General.

These standards are applicable to either mustard greens or turnip greens consisting of either plants (crown or root attached), or cut leaves but they shall not be applicable to mixtures of plants and cut leaves or mixtures of mustard greens and turnip greens in the same container.

Grades
§51.1031 U.S. No. 1.

U.S. No. 1 consists of mustard greens or turnip greens of similar varietal characteristics which are fresh, fairly tender, fairly clean, and which are free from decay and free from damage caused by seedstems, discoloration, freezing, foreign material, disease, insects or mechanical or other means.

- (a) **Specifications for roots.** In the case of turnip greens with roots attached, the roots shall be firm and free from damage by any cause and unless otherwise specified, the maximum diameter of the root shall be 1-1/2 inches.
- (b) **Tolerance for defects.** In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, other than for size of roots and mixtures of plants and leaves, not more than a total of 10 percent, by weight, of the units in any lot, may fail to meet the requirements of the grade: *Provided*, That not more than one-half of this amount, or 5 percent, shall be allowed for serious damage by any cause and including therein not more than 2 percent of decay. (See §51.1034.)
- (c) **Tolerance for mixtures of whole plants and leaves.** Not more than 5 percent, by weight, of the mustard or turnip greens may consist of cut leaves in a lot consisting of plants, or of plants in a lot consisting of cut leaves. (See §51.1034.)
- (d) **Tolerance for size.** Turnip greens with roots attached shall have not more than 10 percent, by weight, of roots which are larger than the specified maximum size. (See §51.1034.)

Reserved
§51.1032 Reserved

Application of Tolerances
§51.1033 Application of tolerances.

- (a) The contents of individual containers in the lot, based on sample inspection, are subject to the following limitation: *Provided*, That the averages for the entire lot are within the tolerances specified.

- (1) When a tolerance is 10 percent or more, individual containers in any lot shall have not more than one and one-half times the tolerance specified.
- (2) When a tolerance is less than 10 percent, individual containers in any lot shall have not more than double the tolerance specified.

§51.1034 Basis for calculating percentages.

Percentages shall be calculated on the basis of weight or an equivalent basis. When mustard greens or turnip greens are packed as plants, each plant shall be considered as a unit. When packed as cut leaves, the individual leaf shall be considered as a unit.

Definitions

§51.1035 Similar varietal characteristics.

“**Similar varietal characteristics**” means that the mustard or turnip greens shall be of one type (such as, crinkly leaf type or smooth leaf type in the case of mustard greens). No mixture of types shall be permitted which materially affects the appearance of the lot.

§51.1036 Fresh.

“**Fresh**” means that the mustard or turnip leaves are not more than slightly wilted.

§51.1037 Fairly tender.

“**Fairly tender**” means that the mustard or turnip greens are not old, tough, or excessively fibrous.

§51.1038 Fairly clean.

“**Fairly clean**” means that the appearance of the mustard or turnip greens is not materially affected by the presence of mud, dirt, or other foreign material.

§51.1039 Damage.

“**Damage**” means any defect which materially affects the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the individual plant (with or without roots), the individual cut leaf, or the lot as a whole. 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) Seedstems when more than one-fourth the length of the longest leaf;
- (b) Discoloration when the appearance of the individual unit is materially affected by

yellowing or any other type of discoloration; and,

(c) Mechanical damage when the individual unit is badly crushed, torn, or broken.

§51.1040 Firm.

“**Firm**” means that the root is not soft, flabby, or shriveled.

§51.1041 Diameter.

“**Diameter**” means the greatest dimension measured at right angles to a line from the center of the crown to the base of the root.

§51.1042 Serious damage.

“**Serious damage**” means any defect which seriously affects the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the individual plant (with or without roots), the individual cut leaf, or the lot as a whole. 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 serious damage:

- (a) Insects when the unit is noticeably infested or when seriously damaged by them;
- (b) Discoloration when the unit is badly discolored; and,
- (c) Decay.