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# United States Consumer Standards for Brussels Sprouts

**Effective August 19, 1950**

Reprinted December 12, 2018

This is a reprint of the United States Consumer Standards for Brussels Sprouts which have been in effect since August 19, 1950 and were updated to modify the format.

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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## **Grades**

### **§51.2050 U.S. Grade A.**

U.S. Grade A shall consist of Brussels sprouts which are well colored and not withered or burst and which are firm, clean, well trimmed, and free from soft rot and seedstems, and free from damage caused by discoloration, freezing, disease, insects, or mechanical or other means. Brussels sprouts on the shown face shall be reasonably representative in size and quality of the contents of the container.

- (a) The diameter of each Brussels sprout shall be not less than 1 inch.
- (b) Incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 5 percent, by weight, of the Brussels sprouts in any lot may be smaller than the specified minimum diameter. In addition, not more than 5 percent, by weight, of the Brussels sprouts may fail to meet the remaining requirements of the grade, including not more than 1 percent for Brussels sprouts affected by soft rot.

### **§51.2051 U.S. Grade B.**

U.S. Grade B shall consist of Brussels sprouts which are fairly well colored and not withered, puffy or burst and which are clean, well trimmed and free from soft rot and seedstems and free from serious damage caused by discoloration, freezing, disease, insects, or mechanical or other means. Brussels sprouts on the shown face shall be reasonably representative in size and quality of the contents of the container.

- (a) The diameter of each Brussels sprout shall be not less than 1 inch.
- (b) Incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 5 percent, by weight, of the Brussels sprouts in any lot may be smaller than the specified minimum diameter. In addition, not more than 5 percent, by weight, of the Brussels sprouts may fail to meet the remaining requirements of the grade, including not more than 1 percent for Brussels sprouts affected by soft rot.

## **Off-Grade**

### **§51.2052 Off-Grade Brussels sprouts.**

Brussels sprouts which fail to meet the requirements of either of the foregoing grades shall be Off-Grade Brussels sprouts.

## **Definitions**

### **§51.2053 Well Colored.**

“Well colored” means that the Brussels sprouts have a yellowish green or darker green color characteristic of well-grown Brussels sprouts.

**§51.2054 Firm.**

“Firm” means that the Brussels sprout is fairly compact but may yield slightly to moderate pressure.

**§51.2055 Clean.**

“Clean” means that the Brussels sprout is practically free from dirt and other foreign matter.

**§51.2056 Well trimmed.**

“Well trimmed” means that the butt of the sprout is fairly smoothly and closely trimmed at the point of attachment of the outer leaves and that the sprout does not have more than 2 wrapper leaves which do not enfold the sprout fairly tightly more than two-thirds the distance from the base to the top.

**§51.2057 Seedstems.**

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

**§51.2058 Damage.**

“Damage” means any injury or defect which materially affects the appearance, or the edible, shipping or keeping quality of the Brussels sprout.

**§51.2059 Diameter.**

“Diameter” means the greatest dimension measured at right angles to a line running from the stem to the apex of the sprout.

**§51.2060 Fairly well colored.**

“Fairly well colored” means that the Brussels sprouts shall not be lighter than whitish green color.

**§51.2061 Puffy.**

“Puffy” means that the Brussels sprout is very light in weight in proportion to its size or has excessive air spaces in the central portion.

**§51.2062 Serious Damage.**

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