United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Fruit and Vegetable Division

Fresh Products Branch

United States Standards for Grades of Spinach for Processing

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Grades
§51.2696 U.S. No. 1.
"U.S. No. 1" consists of spinach which is fairly fresh and free from decay, mildew, grass, weeds, wood, muck chips or other foreign material, roots, and worms, and which is free from damage caused by discoloration, seedstems, seedbuds, coarse stalks and stems, other disease, other insects, spray residue, adhering dirt, or mechanical or other means.
(a) Not more than 25 percent, by weight, of the spinach in any lot may consist of leaf stems
(b) In order to allow for variations incident to proper handling, the following tolerances shall be permitted in a 100 ounce sample:
(1) For decay, mildew, grass, small weeds, and leaves which are damaged by discoloration, not more than a total of 20 pieces: Provided, That not more than three-fourths of this amount, or 15 pieces, shall be permitted for decay, grass and small weeds;
(2) For wood, muck chips, or other foreign material over one-half inch in length, not more than 2 pieces; and
(3) For other defects, including foreign material not over one-half inch in length, not more than 5 ounces.
None of the foregoing tolerances shall apply to worms.
§51.2697 U.S. No. 2.
"U.S. No. 2" consists of spinach which meets all the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade except for the increased tolerances specified in this section.
(a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper handling, the following tolerances shall be permitted in a 100 ounce sample:
(1) For decay, mildew, grass, small weeds, and leaves which are damaged by discoloration, not more than a total of 40 pieces;
(2) For wood, muck chips, or other foreign material over one-half inch in length, not more than 3 pieces; and,

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[1]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.

(3) For other defects, including foreign material not over one-half inch in length, not more than 10 ounces.

None of the foregoing tolerances shall apply to worms.

Unclassified

§51.2698 Unclassified.

"Unclassified" consists of spinach which has not been classified in accordance with either of the foregoing grades. The term "Unclassified" is not a grade within the meaning of these standards, but is provided as a designation to show that no grade has been applied to the lot.

Definitions

§51.2699 Fairly fresh.

"Fairly fresh" means that the spinach is not badly wilted.

§51.2700 Damage.

"Damage" means any defect which materially affects the appearance, or the processing or edible quality of the spinach. 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 of leaf blades when the appearance or processing quality is materially affected by brown or yellow discoloration, except that heart leaves shall not be considered as damaged when showing a normal yellowish cast;

(b) Discoloration of stalks and stems when the appearance or processing quality is materially affected by brownish or blackish discoloration or when the stalk or stem shows more than a tinge of pink or red color;

(c) Seedstems when seedbuds have formed and are plainly visible;

(d) Loose seedbuds when more than one-half inch in length;

(e) Coarse stalks and stems when the leafstems or central stalks are tough, or fibrous; and,

(f) Dirt or spray residue when it cannot be removed in the normal commercial washing process.

§51.2701 Small weeds.

"Small weeds" means weeds which are not over 4 inches in length.