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Muskmelon (Cantaloup) Grader's Manual

Michigan State University Extension Service

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GRADER'S MANUAL

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Muskmelon (Cantaloup) GRADER'S MANUAL

Packing Requirements

Each container of muskmelons must be clearly marked with the name of the variety, if known, the name and address of the packer, the grade or term "Unclassified," and the true net contents. The same information must be shown on the invoices or shipping papers accompanying bulk shipments.

The shown surface must not be of better quality, color, or of larger size than the remainder of the package or bulk lot.

DAMAGE: Any one defect or any combination of defects which materially detracts from the appearance, edible or shipping quality of the cantaloup.

SERIOUS DAMAGE: Any one defect or any combination of defects which seriously detracts from the appearance, edible or shipping quality of the cantaloup.

APPLICATION OF TOLERANCES: The contents of individual packages are subject to the following limitations:

Provided that the averages for the entire lot are within the tolerances for the grade:

A package may not contain more than double any tolerance specified except that at least two (2) defective specimens may be permitted in any package.

REGULATION NO. 528 AS AMENDED
(Under provisions of Act 91, P.A. of 1915)

Summary of Provisions Relating to Grading:

All muskmelons (cantaloups) when prepared for market, offered for sale, or sold must meet the requirements for the U.S. grades established for muskmelons by the United States Department of Agriculture. Muskmelon lots not graded to conform with such U.S. grades may be marketed as "Unclassified"—provided that not more than 3 percent of such lots are affected by decay and/or an additional 5 percent by serious worm damage.

"Unclassified" is not a grade. It is a designation to show that the muskmelons have not been graded in conformance with established U.S. grades.

Provisions of this regulation shall not apply to the sale of muskmelons when made by the grower direct to the consumer.

Copies of the full text of Michigan Regulation No. 528 as Amended, and of the official United States Standards for Cantaloups, may be obtained from Michigan Department of Agriculture, Food Inspection Division, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909.

LIMITS OF DEFECTS U.S. CANTALOUPE GRADES				
TOLERANCES	U.S. FANCY	U.S. NO. 1	U.S. COMMERCIAL	U.S. NO. 2
DEFECTS	8% total damage by count including not more than 4% serious damage and included in the 4% not more than 1/2 of 1% for molded or decay.	Same as U.S. Fancy	16% total damage by count including not more than 4% serious damage and included in the 4% not more than 1/2 of 1% for mold or decay.	8% total serious damage by count including not more than 1/2 of 1% for mold or decay.
INTERNAL QUALITY	Not less than 11% soluble solids.	Not less than 9% soluble solids.	No requirement	No requirement
TYPE	Similar in color of flesh, not decidedly different in shape, character of netting or prominence of ribbing.	Same	Same	Same
MATURE	Must have reached a stage of maturity which will insure completion of the ripening process.	Same	Same	Same
SOFT, OVERRIPE, WILTED	Must not yield readily to slight pressure.	Same	Same	Same
UNIFORM APPEARANCE	Not more than 1/10 packages may vary materially in size, shape, ground color or netting.	No requirement	No requirement	No requirement
NETTING	Must be well-covered with fully developed, well-raised netting, some of which is well-rounded with no crease.	Same as U.S. Fancy	Must be fairly well covered with fairly good netting.	No requirement
FORM	Must have normal shape characteristic of the variety.	Same		Same
DECAY, WET SLIP, SUNSCALD, MOLD	Not permitted.	Same	Same	Same
LIQUID IN SEED CAVITY	Not more than a slight amount.	Same	Same	Must not have a large amount and no fermentation.
SUNBURN	Dark yellow surface discoloration must not affect more than 20% of surface. Rind must not be hard, tough, thin or flattened.	Same	Same	Must not cause cracking or flattening of the rind or serious discoloration of the flesh.
HAIL	Must not be unhealed or deep.	Same	Same	Must be healed.
APHIS	Aphis honeydew must not be more than slightly sticky or discoloration must not more than slightly affect the appearance.	Same	Same	Must not seriously affect the appearance, edible or shipping quality.
SCARS	Permitted if healed, shallow, smooth, light-colored and does not affect more than 5% of surface. Smooth scarring at the blossom end permitted.	Same	Same	Must not seriously affect appearance, edible or shipping quality.
CUTS, GOUGES, SKIN BREAKS, CRACKS	Not permitted if deep, unhealed or wet.	Same	Same	Must not extend into edible portion of cantaloup.
GROUND SPOTS	Permitted if affected area is not thin or weak or if appearance is not materially affected.	Same	Same	Must not seriously affect appearance, edible or shipping quality.
BRUISE	Surface must not be flattened.	Same	Same	Surface must not be seriously flattened or indented or underlying flesh broken down.

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