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Bell (Sweet) Pepper Grader's Manual

Michigan State University Extension Service

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in cooperation with Carl E. Johnson, Federal-State Inspection Service, Marketing and  
International Trade Division, Michigan Department of Agriculture

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*Bell (Sweet)*

# **PEPPER Grader's Manual**

EXTENSION BULLETIN E-1568

| TOLERANCES                                    | U. S. FANCY   | U. S. NO. 1   | U. S. NO. 2  |
|---|---|---|--|
| GRADE   | U.S. Fancy and U.S. No. 1 — Not more than 10%, by count, may fail to meet grade requirements; not more than ½ of this amount or 5% shall be allowed for serious damage including therein not more than 2% for decay.  |   | Not more than 10% by count may fail to meet grade requirements, but not more than ½ of this amount or 5% shall be allowed for sunscald including therein not more than 2% for decay. |
| SIZE  | Not more than 10% by count offsize.   | Same as U.S. Fancy.   | Same as U.S. Fancy.  |
| APPLICATION OF TOLERANCES INDIVIDUAL PACKAGES | ALL GRADES — Packages containing more than 20 peppers, and a tolerance of 10% or more is provided, individual packages may contain not more than one and one-half times the tolerance. Packages containing more than 20 peppers and a tolerance of less than 10% is provided, individual packages may contain not more than double the tolerance, except at least one defective and one offsize pepper may be permitted in any package. |   |  |
| MATURE  | The pepper must have reached a stage of development that will withstand normal handling and shipping. Must be mature green.   |   |  |
| VARIETY                                       | Each pepper shall be of the same general type, thin walled and thick walled peppers may not be mixed in the same container.   |   |  |
| FIRMNESS                                      | Shall not be soft, shriveled, limp or pliable.  | Same as U.S. Fancy.   | Same as U.S. Fancy.  |
| SHAPE   | May not be more than slightly curved, slightly indented or otherwise more than slightly misshapen. See photograph.  | May not be a "button" decidedly crooked, constricted or deformed. See photograph. | May not be badly crooked, indented, constricted or otherwise badly deformed. See photograph.   |
| DECAY, SUNSCALD                               | Must be free from.  | Must be free from.  | Must be free from.   |
| INSECT, MECHANICAL AND DISEASE                | Not permitted if the appearance, edible or shipping quality is injured.   | Not permitted if the appearance, edible or shipping quality is damaged.           | Not permitted if the appearance, edible or shipping quality is seriously damaged.  |
| SCARS   | <sup>1</sup> Not permitted when aggregating more than ⅝ inch or if single scar is more than ¾ inch.   | <sup>2</sup> Same as U.S. Fancy.  | <sup>2</sup> Not permitted when aggregating more than 1 inch or if single scar is more than ¾ inch.  |
| HAIL AND SIMILAR INJURY                       | <sup>1</sup> Not permitted if affected area is not well healed or if over ⅝ inch.   | <sup>2</sup> Same as U.S. Fancy.  | <sup>2</sup> Not permitted if any opening or puncture is through fleshy wall.  |
| SUNBURN                                       | Not permitted if affected area is more than 5% of surface.  | Not permitted if affected area is more than 15% of surface.                       | Not permitted if affected area is more than 25% of surface.  |
| BACTERIAL SPOT                                | <sup>1</sup> Not permitted if aggregate area is more than ⅝ inch.   | <sup>2</sup> Same as U.S. Fancy.  | Not permitted if aggregate area is more than 1 inch.   |
| DIAMETER                                      | Means the greatest dimension measured at right angles to the longitudinal axis.   |   |  |
| LENGTH  | Means the greatest overall length measured in a straight line parallel to the longitudinal axis exclusive of the stem.  |   |  |

**PREVENTING FRAUD IN THE SALE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**  
Act No. 328

No person shall sell, offer, expose or have in his possession for sale any fruit or vegetable unless such packages are marked with the name and address of the grower, packer or vendor.

No person shall sell, offer, expose or have in his possession for sale any package in which the shown face gives a false representation of the contents of such package.

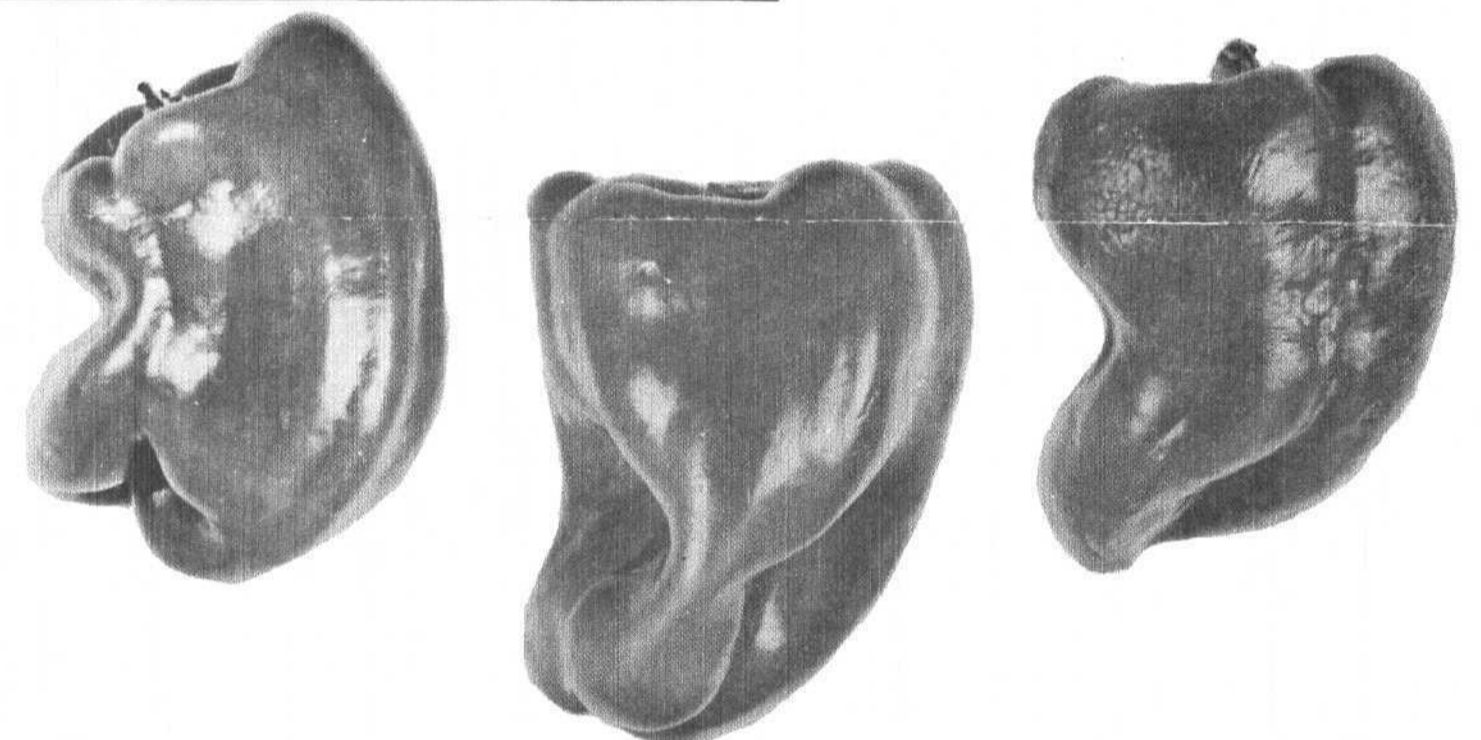
<sup>1</sup>Affected areas stated are based on a pepper 3 inches in diameter and 3½ inches in length, or corresponding greater areas on larger peppers. No reduction in the affected areas is allowed for smaller peppers.

<sup>2</sup>Affected areas are based on a pepper 2½ inches in length and 2½ inches in diameter or corresponding greater or lesser areas on larger or smaller peppers.

**COLOR**

Peppers may be designated as "U.S. Fancy Red", "U.S. No. 1 Red", or "U.S. No. 2 Red" provided the lot contains an average of 90% or more showing any amount of a shade of red color.

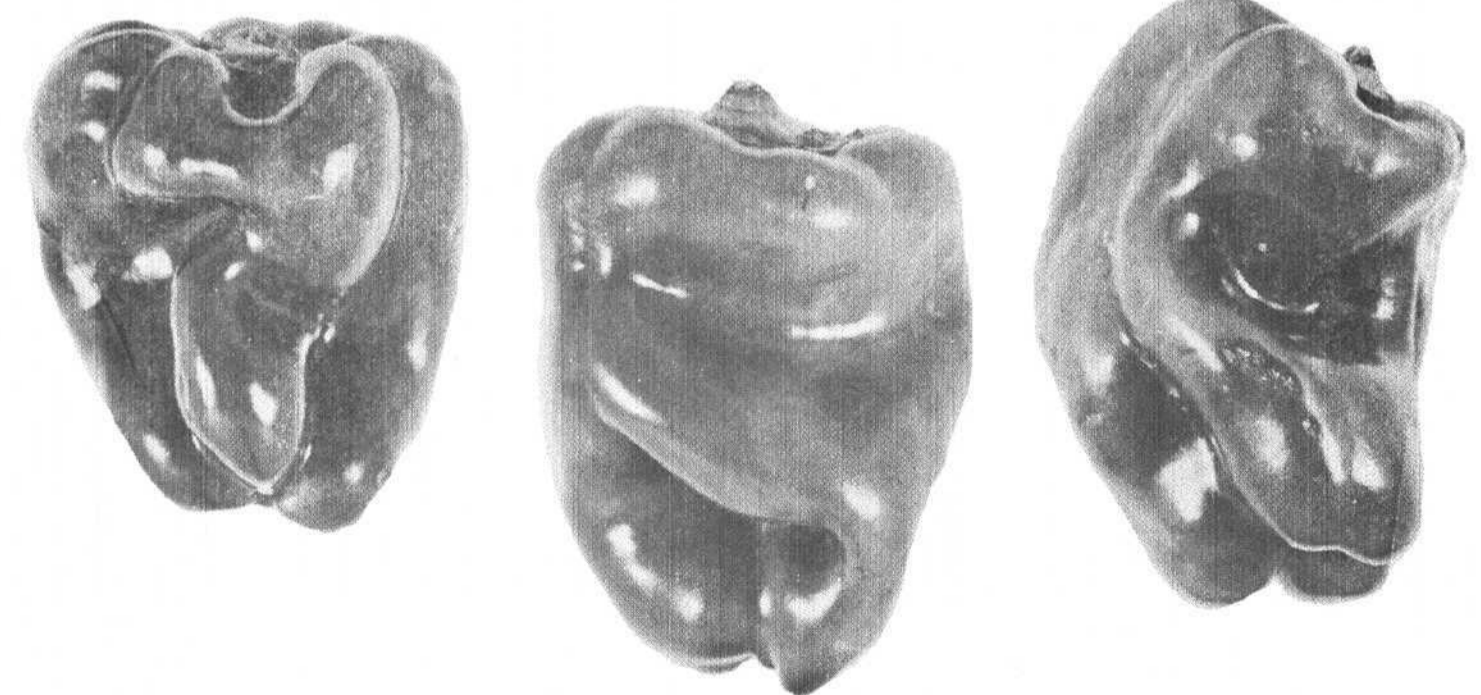
Peppers may be designated as "U.S. Fancy Mixed Color", "U.S. No. 1 Mixed Color" or "U.S. No. 2 Mixed Color" if the lot fails to meet the color requirements for the red or the unqualified U.S. Grade designation.



LOWER LIMIT "FAIRLY WELL SHAPED"  
U.S. No. 1



LOWER LIMIT "WELL SHAPED"  
U.S. Fancy



LOWER LIMIT "NOT SERIOUSLY MISSHAPEN"  
U.S. No. 2

*Prepared by:*

**GLEN G. ANTLE**

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Cooperative Extension Service**

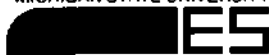
in cooperation with

**CARL E. JOHNSON**

**Federal-State Inspection Service,  
Marketing and International Trade Division  
Michigan Department of Agriculture**

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

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