

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Division of Horticulture  
Olympia

Sverre N. Omdahl  
Director of  
Agriculture

Order No. 662

Wm. H. Shaw  
Supervisor of  
Horticulture

WASHINGTON STANDARDS FOR ITALIAN PRUNES\* 1953

(Effective and mandatory for all Italian type prunes grown within or outside of the State.)

U. S. No. 1 shall consist of plums or prunes of one variety which are well formed (1), mature (2) but not overripe or soft or shriveled, and which are free from decay and sunscald (3), and from damage (4) caused by broken skins (4a), heat injury (4b), growth cracks (4c), sunburn (4d), split pits (4e), hail marks (4f), drought spots (4g), russeting (4h), scars (4i), dirt or other foreign material, disease, insects or mechanical or other means. Italian type prunes shall be fairly well colored (6), and, unless otherwise specified, the minimum size of such prunes shall be not less than 1-1/8 inches in diameter (7).

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and packing, not more than a total of 10 per cent, by count, of the fruit in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade for defects other than color and size of Italian type prunes, but not more than 5 per cent, by count, may be allowed for defects causing serious damage, and not more than one-fifth of the latter amount, or 1 per cent, may be allowed for decay. In addition, not more than 10 per cent, by count, of the Italian type prunes in any lot may fail to meet the color requirements, and not more than 10 per cent, by count, may fail to meet the size specifications, but the combined tolerance for size, color and other defects shall not exceed 15 per cent. (See Application of Tolerances.)

U. S. No. 2 shall consist of plums or prunes of one variety which are not badly misshapen (8), and which are mature (2) but not overripe or soft or shriveled; and which are free from decay, sunscald (3), and from serious damage (9) caused by broken skins (9a), heat injury (9b), growth cracks (9c), sunburn (9d), split pits (9e), hail marks (9f), drought spots (9g), gum spots (9g), russeting (9h), scars (9i), dirt or other foreign material, disease, insects or mechanical or other means.

There are no requirements in this grade for color or size.

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and packing, not more than a total of 10 per cent, by count, of the fruit in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade. Of this tolerance, not more than one-half, or a total of 5 percent, by count, may be allowed for sunscald, decay or serious damage by insects or heat injury, but not more than one-fifth of the latter amount, or 1 per cent, may be allowed for decay. If a minimum size is specified, not more than 10 per cent, by count, of the fruit in any lot may fail to meet the size specified. (See Application of Tolerances.)

U. S. Combination shall consist of a combination of U. S. No. 1 and U. S. No. 2 plums or prunes, provided that at least 75 per cent, by count, meet the requirements of U. S. No. 1 grade.

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and packing, not more than a total of 10 per cent, by count, of the fruit in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade. Of this tolerance, not more than one-half, or a total of 5 per cent, by count, may be allowed for sunscald, decay or serious damage by insects or heat injury, but not more than one-fifth of the latter amount, or 1 per cent, may be allowed for decay. No part of any tolerance shall be allowed to reduce, for the lot as a whole, the percentage of U. S. No. 1 in the combination, but individual containers may have not more than a total of 10 per cent less than the percentage of U. S. No. 1 specified, provided that the entire lot averages within the percentage specified. (See Application of Tolerances.)

\* The same grading rules apply to plums and other varieties of prunes but were not adopted as compulsory standards in the State of Washington.

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Washington No. 1 Grade shall consist of prunes of one variety which are well formed; mature but not soft, overripe, or shriveled; which are free from decay, unhealed broken skins (except those caused by pulled stems where the skin is not torn beyond the stem basin) and from damage caused by dirt or other foreign material, growth cracks, sunburn, split pits, hail, drought, russeting, scars, disease, insects, or mechanical or other means. Italian type prunes shall be fairly well colored, and, unless otherwise specified, the minimum size of such prunes shall be not less than  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches in diameter.

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than a total of 10 per cent, by count, of the prunes in any container may not meet the requirements of this grade for defects other than color and size of Italian type prunes but not more than 5 per cent, by count, may be allowed for defects causing serious damage and not more than 1 per cent may be allowed for decay. In addition, not more than 20 per cent, by count, of the Italian type prunes in any container may not meet the color requirements and not more than 10 per cent, by count, may not meet the size specifications, but the combined tolerance for all defects shall not exceed 25 per cent.

The Definitions of Terms are the same as for the federal grades.

CULLS shall consist of prunes which are immature or seriously damaged by growth cracks, hail, insect pests, mechanical or other means.

#### APPLICATION OF TOLERANCES

The contents of individual containers in the lot, based on sample inspection, are subject to the following limitations, provided the averages for the entire lot are within the tolerances specified:

When a tolerance is 10 per cent or more, individual containers in any lot shall have not more than one and one-half times the tolerance specified, except that at least one defective and one undersized fruit may be permitted in a container.

When a tolerance is less than 10 per cent, individual containers in any lot shall have not more than double the tolerance specified, except that at least one defective and one undersized fruit may be permitted in a container.

#### STANDARD PACK

The plums or prunes shall be of fairly uniform size (10) and tightly packed according to the approved and recognized methods. The fruits in the top layer shall not be noticeably superior in quality or size to those in the remainder of the package.

The size of plums or prunes packed in 4-basket crates shall be indicated as follows:  $4 \times 4$ ,  $4 \times 5$ ,  $5 \times 5$ , etc. in accordance with the arrangement in the top layer of the basket. These packs shall not be more than 3 layers deep. Arrangements such as  $4-3 \times 5$  and  $5-4 \times 5$  shall not be considered standard packs.

The arrangement of the bottom layer shall be one row less one way, and may be one row less each way than the arrangement of the top layer. The arrangement of the middle layer may be the same as the top layer, or may be one row less one way than the arrangement of the top layer. Straight, offset, and diagonal packs in the layers are permitted. For example, a pack with  $5 \times 5$  in the top layer may have  $5 \times 5$  in the middle layer, and shall have  $4 \times 5$  or  $4-3 \times 5$  in the bottom layer; or it may have  $4 \times 5$  or  $4-3 \times 5$  in the middle layer, and shall have  $4 \times 5$ ,  $4-3 \times 5$ , or  $4 \times 4$  in the bottom layer.

In layer-packed California peach or lug boxes, the count in the entire container shall be marked on the package.

In double-faced and filled special lugs the number of rows, lengthwise of the lugs, shall be marked on the package to indicate size, as "nine row."

In order to allow for variations incident to proper packing, not more than 10 per cent, by count, of the containers in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of the Standard Pack.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

As used in these Standards:

1. "Well-formed" means that the fruit has the shape characteristic of the variety. Doubles shall not be considered well-formed.
2. "Mature" means that the fruit has reached the stage of maturity which will insure a proper completion of the ripening process.
3. "Sunscald" means injury caused by the sun in which softening or collapse of the flesh is apparent.
4. "Damage" means any injury or defect which materially affects the appearance, or edible or shipping quality of the fruit. Internal growth cracks, cavities or gum spots are not considered damage. 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) Broken skins which are unhealed; except those caused by pulled stems where the skin is not torn beyond the stem basin. (Healed skin breaks shall be handled as scars.)
  - (b) Heat injury which is extensive or not light in color.
  - (c) External growth cracks, when there are more than one on a fruit, or when any growth crack is deep, not well healed, or more than one-fourth inch in length.
  - (d) Sunburn which has materially changed the normal color of the fruit, or has caused the skin to blister or crack.
  - (e) Split pit which causes a readily apparent crack at the stem end, or which affects the shape to the extent that the fruit is not well-formed.
  - (f) Hail marks, or other similar depressions or scars, which are not shallow or superficial, or which aggregate more than three-eighths inch in diameter, or when the skin has been broken.
  - (g) Drought spots or external gum spots which are more than one-fourth of an inch in diameter.
  - (h) Russeting which is not excessively rough, when aggregating more than 10 per cent of the fruit surface; or excessively rough russeting when aggregating more than one-fourth inch in diameter.
  - (i) Scars:

Dark, rough or depressed scars which aggregate more than one-fourth inch in diameter.

Fairly smooth, superficial scars, including fairly light discoloration such as is caused by handling or packing or by plums rubbing against each other while on the tree, which aggregate more than one-half inch in diameter.


Thorn and limb scratches which are not well healed, or which aggregate more than one-half inch in length.
5. "Well colored" as applied to Italian type prunes, means that 95 per cent of the surface of the prune is purple color, excepting that portion which is permitted to be affected by russeting.
6. "Fairly well colored" as applied to Italian type prunes, means that at least three-fourths of the surface of the prune is purple color.
7. "Diameter" means the shortest distance measured through the center of the fruit, at right angles to a line running from the stem to the blossom end.
8. "Badly misshapen" means that the fruit is so malformed or rough that its appearance is seriously damaged. Doubles shall be considered badly misshapen, except that doubles of Italian type prunes which have approximately equal sized halves shall not be considered badly misshapen.

9. "Serious damage" means any injury or defect which seriously affects the appearance, edible or shipping quality of the fruit. 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) Broken skins which are unhealed and more than one-eighth inch in diameter or depth; except those caused by pulled stems where the skin is not torn beyond the stem basin. (Healed skin breaks shall be handled as scars.)
- (b) Heat injury which causes any softening or dark discoloration of the flesh. Heat injury may cause internal or external discoloration, and may or may not be serious. It should not be confused with sunscald which causes softening or collapse of the tissue, and which is always classed as serious damage.
- (c) External growth cracks which are not well healed, or which are more than 3/16 inch in depth, or more than one-half inch in length.
- (d) Sunburn which causes decided flattening of the fruit, or causes blistering, cracking, or noticeable brownish discoloration of the skin.
- (e) Split pit which causes a crack at the stem end more than 3/16 inch in length, including any part which may be covered by the stem; or which affects the shape to the extent that the fruit is badly misshapen.
- (f) Hail marks which are more than 3/16 inch in depth, or which aggregate more than one-half inch in diameter.
- (g) Drought spots or external gum spots which aggregate more than one-half inch in diameter.
- (h) Russeting which is not excessively rough, when aggregating more than one-third of the fruit surface; or excessively rough russeting when aggregating more than one-half inch in diameter.
- (i) Scars which are very dark or excessively rough and aggregate more than one-half inch in diameter; or which are more than 3/16 inch in depth.

10. "Fairly uniform size" means that the fruits in each packed container shall not show a variation of more than one-fourth of an inch in diameter (6).

This Order No. 662 becomes effective July 8, 1953.

  
Sverre N. Omdahl, Director  
Department of Agriculture

Signed at Olympia, Washington  
July 8, 1953