

2024 Fresh Market Vegetable – Acreage-Loss Basis Grading Standards

Grading standards provide the produce industry with a uniform language for describing the quality and condition of commodities in the marketplace. Agricorp uses grading standards to determine if a crop is of acceptable quality or in a claim situation. Agricorp’s grading standards are based on information from the United States Department of Agriculture, and from Canadian Agriculture Standards, where applicable.

| Crop | Grading standard | Threshold |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Root crops | | |
| Carrots | Minimum diameter (standard): $\frac{3}{4}$ " Minimum diameter (Jumbo): $1\frac{3}{4}$ " Minimum length: $4\frac{1}{2}$ " Demonstrates varietal characteristics. Carrots may not be soft, flabby, shrivelled, rough, materially misshaped or affected by secondary rootlets (ridged, grooved, or lumpy from secondary growth). Carrots must be free from disease and insect damage. | Mineral soil: 13,800 lbs/acre Muck soil: 15,400 lbs/acre Organic: 9,300 lbs/acre |
| Mini carrots | Diameter: $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ " Grading standards according to processor’s specifications. | Muck soil: 7,400 lbs/acre Mineral soil: 7,500 lbs/acre |
| Celeriac | Minimum diameter: 2" Must be free from flaws and insect damage. | 8,000 lbs/acre |
| French shallots | Minimum diameter: $\frac{3}{4}$ " Free from disease or insect damage. | 6,200 lbs/acre |
| Garlic | Minimum diameter: $1\frac{1}{2}$ " Demonstrates varietal characteristics, is mature, compact, with cloves well filled and fairly plump. Free from mould, decay, and damage caused by disease, insects, or other means. Each bulb shall be enclosed in its outer sheath. | 1,200 lbs/acre |
| Onions – green | Diameter: $\frac{1}{4}$ – 1" Length (roots excepted): 8 – 24" Onions must be well formed, firm, and free from decay or damage caused by seed stems, roots, foreign material, disease, insect, mechanical, or other means. The tops must be green in colour and free from damage (broken or bruised leaves). | 16,400 bunches/acre |
| Onions – Spanish | Minimum diameter: $2\frac{3}{4}$ " Demonstrates varietal characteristics. Free from decay and disease and insect damage and must be free from thick necks and seed stems. <u>Grades and Sizes</u> Large – 3" < diameter Medium – $2\frac{3}{4}$ - 3" diameter | Mineral soil: 10,700 lbs/acre High density in mineral soil: 15,600 lbs/acre |
| Onions – yellow | Standard: $1\frac{3}{4}$ " < diameter Demonstrates varietal characteristics. Free from decay and disease and insect damage and must be free from thick necks and seed stems. | Seeded or transplant in mineral soil: 15,800 lbs/acre Seeded or transplant in muck soil: 17,100 lbs/acre |
| Leeks | Diameter: $\frac{3}{4}$ " untrimmed Demonstrates varietal characteristics. | Mineral or muck soil: 9,900 units/acre |
| Parsnips | Crown diameter: 1 – 3" Minimum length: 5" Parsnips must show varietal characteristics, be firm (unyielding to moderate pressure), free from disease, insect and rodent damage, decay, or breakdown from freeze injury, and pithiness (spongy and porous). | 5,800 lbs/acre |
| Radishes – bunch | Diameter: $\frac{5}{8}$ – $1\frac{1}{8}$ " Demonstrates varietal characteristics. Should be well formed, smooth, firm, and free from decay, air cracks, growth cracks, cuts, or pithiness. Should be free from damage caused by freezing, disease, insects, or other means. Bunched radishes have tops that are fresh and free from decay, yellowing, or other discolouration. | Bunched: 70 packs of 100 bunches |
| Radish – cello | Diameter: $\frac{3}{4}$ – $1\frac{1}{4}$ " Demonstrates varietal characteristics. Should be well formed, smooth, firm, and free from decay, air cracks, growth cracks, cuts, or pithiness. Should be free from damage caused by freezing, disease, insects, or other means. | 3,000 lbs/acre |
| Red beets | Diameter: $1\frac{1}{4}$ – 3" Must show varietal characteristics. Must be free from damage that cannot be removed without the loss of more than 5% of the total weight of the beet. | 9,200 lbs/acre |

| Crop | Grading standard | Threshold | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|----------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|----------|---------|----------|--------|------|----------------|
| Root crops (cont'd) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rutabagas | Small: 2 – 4" diameter Medium: 4 – 6" diameter Large: 6" < diameter Maximum Length: 1½ times diameter Must be free from disease, freezing injuries, and insect damage. Must be free from damage or discoloration deeper than 1" from the surface or any damage or defect other than growth cracks affecting the upper half of the rutabaga. Must be free from growth cracks that are not healed, are discoloured, materially affect the appearance, or are deeper than ⅛" for rutabagas with a 2 – 4" diameter, ¼" for rutabagas with a 4 – 6" diameter, or ⅜" for rutabaga greater than 6" in diameter. | 9,800 lbs/acre | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sweet potatoes | Diameter: 1¾ – 3½" Length: 3 – 9" Demonstrates varietal characteristics. Must be firm, smooth, well-shaped, free from freezing injury, internal breakdown, Black Rot, other decay or wet breakdown, and free from serious damage caused by secondary rootlets, sprouts, cuts, bruises, scars, growth cracks, Pox (soil rot), or other diseases, wireworms, weevils, or other insects or other means. | 4,400 lbs/acre | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Turnips | Diameter: 1¾ – 2½" Must be free from flaws and insect damage and be oval-round in shape. <u>White turnip:</u> 2 – 2½" diameter Must be completely white and semi-round. <u>White and purple turnip:</u> Purple for minimum of ¼" from crown. | 6,200 lbs/acre | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other crops | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Broad beans | Must show varietal characteristics. Beans must be free from decay and damage caused by dirt, scars, leaves, freezing, hail, disease, insects, mechanical, or other means. | 2,200 lbs/acre | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Green and wax beans | Must show varietal characteristics. Beans must be uniform in size, with no extreme curvature, well formed, bright, firm, free from soft rot, and free from damage caused by leaves, leaf stems, hail, frost, disease, and insect damage. | 1,600 lbs/acre | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Green peas | Demonstrate varietal characteristics and not excessively small, badly misshapen, or water soaked. Peas should be firm, free from decay or damage caused by black calyxes, freezing, splitting, hail, or other disease. More than ⅔ of the pod must contain peas. | 910 lbs/acre | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sweet corn | Must show varietal characteristics. Cob must be free from smut, decay, worms and damage caused by worms, rust, discoloration, disease, and mechanical means. Cob must be fairly well filled with plump and milky kernels and rows of kernels must be of fairly uniform development. Cobs must be fairly well covered with fresh, unbroken, green husks. Cobs must not be misshapen or stunted in growth. Cob must have at least 6" of edible kernel and the undeveloped ends must not exceed ¼ of the length of the ear. | 480 dozen/acre | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fruit crops | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cucumber, field slicing | Canada No. 1: Minimum length: 6" Maximum diameter: 2¾" Canada No. 2: Minimum length: 4" Must show varietal characteristics. Must be firm, straight, smooth, and green colour on a minimum of 85% of surface for Canada No. 1 and 75% of surface for Canada No. 2. Must be free from shrivelling, wrinkling, rot, decay, freezing injury, sunscald, and damage due to disease (anthracnose, bacterial spot, black rot, or scab that affects the flesh) or insects. | Cucumbers: 10,900 units/acre Cucumbers, transplanted: 10,400 units/acre Cucumber, transplanted on mulch: 13,500 units/acre | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eggplant | <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Grade</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Diameter</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Length</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 4:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1 – 2"</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2 – 4"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 3:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2 – 3"</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4 – 5"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 2:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3 – 3½ "</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5½ - 7"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grade 1:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 3½ "</td> <td style="text-align: center;">> 7"</td> </tr> </table> Must demonstrate varietal characteristics and be free from injury, disease, and insect damage. | Grade | Diameter | Length | Grade 4: | 1 – 2" | 2 – 4" | Grade 3: | 2 – 3" | 4 – 5" | Grade 2: | 3 – 3½ " | 5½ - 7" | Grade 1: | > 3½ " | > 7" | 6,400 lbs/acre |
| Grade | Diameter | Length | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grade 4: | 1 – 2" | 2 – 4" | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grade 3: | 2 – 3" | 4 – 5" | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grade 2: | 3 – 3½ " | 5½ - 7" | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grade 1: | > 3½ " | > 7" | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Crop | Grading standard | Threshold | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Fruit crops (cont'd) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Melons | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grade</th> <th>Size</th> <th>Conversion Factor</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>#9 (9 units/box)</td> <td>5½ – 6"</td> <td>1.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>#12 (12 units/box)</td> <td>5 – 5½"</td> <td>1.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>#15 (15 units/box)</td> <td>4½ – 5"</td> <td>0.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td># 18 (18 units/box)</td> <td>4 – 4½"</td> <td>0.67</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Must show varietal characteristics. Melons should be free from spots, marks, or perforations.</p> | Grade | Size | Conversion Factor | #9 (9 units/box) | 5½ – 6" | 1.33 | #12 (12 units/box) | 5 – 5½" | 1.00 | #15 (15 units/box) | 4½ – 5" | 0.80 | # 18 (18 units/box) | 4 – 4½" | 0.67 | <p>Melons seeded: 2,100 units/acre</p> <p>Melons, seeded on mulch: 3,000 units/acre</p> <p>Melons, transplant on mulch: 3,200 units/acre</p> |
| Grade | Size | Conversion Factor | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| #9 (9 units/box) | 5½ – 6" | 1.33 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| #12 (12 units/box) | 5 – 5½" | 1.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| #15 (15 units/box) | 4½ – 5" | 0.80 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| # 18 (18 units/box) | 4 – 4½" | 0.67 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peppers – bell | <p>Grade 1: minimum 2½" diameter, very small flaws.</p> <p>Grade 2: less than 2½", small flaws (small scratches, small scabs, deformities, injuries spots, etc).</p> <p>Must show varietal characteristics. Should be firm, fairly well shaped, and free from sunscald, freezing injury, blossom end rot, decay, hail scars, disease, and insect damage.</p> <p>Grading standards for processing peppers are according to processor contract.</p> | <p>Bell peppers: 7,600 lbs/acre</p> <p>Bell peppers high density: 10,800 lbs/acre</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peppers – specialty | <p>Must show varietal characteristics. Should be firm and free from sunscald, freezing injury, blossom end rot, decay, hail scars, disease, and insect damage. May be somewhat deformed.</p> <p>Adjusters must discuss standards with grower.</p> <p>Grading standards for processing peppers are according to processor contract. Cherry, habanero, Serrano, red chili and Thai hot type peppers are not eligible for insurance under the processing specialty pepper crop class.</p> | <p>Fresh: 4,800 lbs/acre</p> <p>Processing: 12,300 lbs/acre</p> <p>High density: 6,900 lbs/acre</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pumpkins | <p>Minimum diameter: 10"</p> <p>Green colour on less than 5% of external surface. Stalk must be healthy and dark green. Pumpkin must have uniform colour, free from flaws, injuries, deformities, disease (rot, virus, etc).</p> <p>Note: Pumpkins are not insured once harvested (or in windrow).</p> <p>Grading standards for processing pumpkins are according to processor contract.</p> | <p>Pumpkins and transplant pumpkins: 8,900 lbs/acre</p> <p>Processing pumpkins: 13,400 lbs/acre</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Squash | <p>Demonstrates varietal characteristics and is uniform in size. Must be free from soft rot, scars, dry rot, disease, and insect damage.</p> <p>Butternut squash should be peachy-pink in colour (not green). Different sizes are accepted (not criteria for rejection).</p> <p>Spaghetti squash should be yellow in colour.</p> | <p>Summer squash: Determined by grower's history.</p> <p>Pattipan and Lebanese squash: 7,300 units/acre</p> <p>Pattipan and Lebanese transplant: 8,600 units/acre</p> <p>Pepper squash: 2,300 units/acre</p> <p>Butternut squash: 1,700 units/acre</p> <p>Buttercup squash: 1,300 units/acre</p> <p>Spaghetti squash: 2,500 units/acre</p> <p>Winter squash transplant: 2,800 units/acre</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tomatoes | <p><u>Grade 1:</u> Round Type: Standard diameter – 2" (1½ – 2" tomatoes are "small")</p> <p>Italian Type: Minimum diameter – 1¼"</p> <p><u>Grade 2:</u> Round Type: Minimum diameter – 1¾"</p> <p>Italian Type: Minimum diameter – 1¼"</p> <p>Must show varietal characteristics. Tomatoes must be free from decay or breakdown, freezing injury, shrivelling or wrinkling, and damage due to insect, disease and blossom end rot.</p> | <p>Tomatoes and tomatoes on mulch: 12,700 lbs/acre</p> <p>Tomatoes, staked on mulch: 16,000 lbs/acre</p> <p>Italian tomatoes: 12,700 lbs/acre</p> <p>Italian tomatoes on mulch: 14,800 lbs/acre</p> <p>Italian tomatoes staked on mulch: 16,000 lbs/acre</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Watermelon | <p>Must demonstrate varietal characteristics including shape. Must be free from damage due to disease, insects, sunscald, hail, and wind injury.</p> <p>Free from white heart or hollow heart.</p> | <p>Watermelon, transplant on mulch: 1,600 units/acre</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Crop | Grading standard | Threshold |
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| Fruit crops (cont'd) | | |
| Zucchini | Must demonstrate varietal characteristics. Must be free from damage due to disease, insects, sunscald, hail, wind injury. | Zucchini (all normal density): 6,100 lbs/acre High density: 11,000 lbs/acre |
| Leafy crops | | |
| Bok choy | Must demonstrate varietal characteristics. Stalk with branches and leaves should be 6" – 14" in length. Branches should be fleshy, glossy and white with smooth green, egg-shaped leaves. Leaves should be glossy and firm with a scalloped edge. Must not show presence of insect or disease damage, browning on edges, rot, sunscald, browning veins, or bolting. | Bok choy, baby: 4,200 lbs/acre Bok choy, small baby: 2,700 lbs/acre Bok choy, sum: 2,700 lbs/acre Bok choy, big: 5,400 lbs/acre |
| Broccoli | <u>Fresh Market Broccoli:</u> Crown Diameter: 2½ – 5" Crown Length: 2½" – 5" Must be free from discoloration or damage caused by insect, disease, or other means. Must be free from hollow core. Unit = bunch of 1 to 3 heads <u>Processing Broccoli:</u> According to processor contract. | Fresh broccoli, transplanted fresh broccoli: 2,800 units/acre High density transplanted fresh broccoli: 2,800 units/acre Processing broccoli: 3,000 lbs/acre Processing broccoli transplanted: 3,300 lbs/acre |
| Brussels sprouts | Diameter: 1 – 2" Maximum length: 2¾" Must be good green colour, free from decay, and free from insect damage. | 2,300 lbs/acre |
| Cauliflower | <u>Fresh Market Cauliflower</u> Minimum diameter: 5" Must have a compact head (curds solid, and no loose spaces). Wrapper leaves must be green. No more than six small wrapper leaves may cover the edge of the head or be between the florets. Heads must show varietal characteristics. Heads must be free from abnormal colour, riceyness (loose, granular appearance), mould, disease, insect damage, pubescence (velvet-like growth on florets), and hollow core. <u>Processing Cauliflower:</u> According to processor contract. | Cauliflower and transplanted cauliflower: 2,800 units/acre Processing cauliflower: 4,000 lbs/acre Processing cauliflower transplanted: 4,000 lbs/acre |
| Celery | Minimum diameter: 2½" Minimum stalk length: 12" Stalks must be firm, bright, and show varietal characteristics (number, length, and stockiness of inner branches and stalks). Must be free from any dark or black discoloration. <u>Processing Celery:</u> According to processor contract. | Celery: 7,900 units/acre Celery, high density processing: 10,100 units/acre |
| Cabbage (summer and winter) | Minimum diameter: 5" Demonstrates varietal characteristics. Heads should not be withered or burst or be forming a seed stem. Heads should be free from decay, breakdown, disease, or insect damage that penetrates more than 3 head leaves. Sunscald must not affect more than ¼" of the area of the crown, or penetrate more than 2 outer leaves. | Summer and winter cabbage and transplanted summer and winter cabbage: 13,400 lbs/acre Organic summer cabbage: 11,000 lbs/acre Organic winter cabbage: 11,000 lbs/acre |
| Chinese cabbage | Must show varietal characteristics. Should be well-formed with tight, dense leaves. Must not show presence of insect or disease damage, browning on edges, rot, sunscald, browning veins, or bolting. | Chinese cabbage, muck soil: 8,900 lbs/acre Chinese cabbage, mineral soil: 8,900 lbs/acre |
| Gai lan | Must demonstrate varietal characteristics. Stalks should be 6" – 8" in length and harvested just prior to flowering. Must be free from discoloration or damage caused by insect, disease, or other means. | 3,100 lbs/acre |
| Kale | Length of crown: 4 – 5" Must show varietal characteristics and be free from disease and insect damage. | 3,500 lbs/acre |

| Crop | Grading standard | Threshold |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Leafy crops (cont'd) | | |
| Lettuce | <p>Must show varietal characteristics. Must not show presence of insect or disease damage, browning on edges, rot, sunscald, browning veins, or bolting.</p> <p>Unit = head or plant</p> | <p><u>Boston lettuce</u> Muck soil: 6,300 units/acre, Transplant mineral soil: 6,000 units/acre</p> <p><u>Leaf lettuce</u> Muck soil: 7,100 units/acre Transplant Mineral Soil: 6,000 units/acre</p> <p><u>Head lettuce</u> Muck soil: 4,100 units/acre Transplant mineral soil: 2,700 units/acre</p> <p><u>Romaine</u> Muck soil: 6,600 units/acre Transplant mineral soil: 4,600 units/acre</p> |
| Mesclun | <p>Leaf length: at least 4"</p> <p>Must be free from holes, no yellowing or browning, and free from insect damage.</p> | <p>0 lbs/acre Must have complete loss.</p> |
| Mustard greens | <p>Must demonstrate varietal characteristics. Must be free from discolouration or damage caused by insect, disease, or other means.</p> | <p>2,400 lbs/acre</p> |
| Baby spinach | <p>Leaves must be very green and free from flaws.</p> | <p>0 lbs/acre Must have complete loss.</p> |
| Spinach | <p>Must be free from holes, yellowing or browning, bolting, insect or disease damage.</p> | <p>1,030 lbs/acre</p> |
| Yu choy | <p>Must demonstrate varietal characteristics. Must be free from discolouration or damage caused by insect, disease, or other means.</p> | <p>Yu choy: 2,300 lbs/acre Yu choy, mieu: 2,300 lbs/acre</p> |

Version française disponible

2024-03-06