

720-8871, E-mail
 FPB.DocketClerk@usda.gov.

Comments should make reference to the dates and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for public inspection in the above office during regular business hours. The United States Standards for Grades of Kale are available either through the address cited above or by accessing the Fresh Products Branch Web site at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/standards/stanfrfv.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David L. Priester, at the above address or call (202) 720-2185; E-mail
 David.Priester@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), as amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture "to develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade and packaging and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices * * *." AMS is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the marketing of agricultural commodities and makes copies of official standards available upon request. The United States Standards for Grades of Fruits and Vegetables not connected with Federal Marketing Orders or U.S. Import Requirements no longer appear in the Code of Federal Regulations, but are maintained by USDA/AMS/Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

AMS is proposing to revise the voluntary U.S. Standards for Grades of Kale using procedures that appear in Part 36 Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR Part 36). These standards were last revised in 1934.

Background

Prior to undertaking research and other work associated with revision of the grade standards, AMS published a notice in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 58879) on October 1, 2004, soliciting comments on the possible revision to the United States Standards for Grades of Kale.

In response to our request for comments, AMS received one comment from an industry group, NAPAR. The comment was in favor of the proposed revision.

The proposed revision will allow percentages to be determined by count rather than weight. AMS is also proposing to revise the application of tolerances for packages which contain less than 15 specimens. This change will allow double the tolerances

specified, and that at least one defective specimen may be permitted in any sample, as long as the average for the entire lot is within the tolerance specified for the grade.

AMS also received a request from NAPAR to allow the standards to be used for kale leaves and bunched kale leaves in addition to kale plants. Currently the standards only apply to kale plants. This proposal will bring the standards for kale in line with current marketing practices, thereby, improving the usefulness of the standards in serving the industry.

The official grade of a lot of kale covered by these standards is determined by the procedures set forth in the Regulations Governing Inspection, Certification, and Standards of Fresh Fruits, Vegetables and Other Products (Sec. 51.1 to 51.61).

This notice provides for a 60-day comment period for interested parties to comment on changes to the standard.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627.

Dated: March 7, 2005.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 05-4813 Filed 3-10-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket Number FV-04-304]

United States Standards for Grades of Mangos

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting comments on the proposed voluntary U.S. Standards for Grades of Mangos. Members of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas and other members of the mango industry have requested this action to be taken. The proposed standards would provide industry with a common language and uniform basis for trading, thus promoting orderly and efficient marketing of mangos.

DATES: Comments must be received by May 10, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing

Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 1661, South Building, Stop 0240, Washington, DC 20250-0240, fax (202) 720-8871, e-mail

FPB.DocketClerk@usda.gov. Comments should make reference to the dates and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for public inspection in the above office during regular business hours and on the Internet.

The draft of the United States Standards for Grades of Mangos is available by accessing AMS's home page on the Internet at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/fpbdoctlist.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David L. Priester, at the above address or call (202) 720-2185, e-mail
 David.Priester@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), as amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture "to develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade and packaging and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices * * *." AMS is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the marketing of agricultural commodities and makes copies of official standards available upon request. The United States Standards for Grades of Fruits and Vegetables not connected with Federal Marketing Orders or U.S. Import Requirements, no longer appear in the Code of Federal Regulations, but are maintained by the USDA/AMS/Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

AMS is proposing to establish voluntary U.S. Standards for Grades of Mangos using the procedures that appear in part 36 title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR part 36).

Background

On December 16, 2003, AMS published a notice in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 69984) soliciting comments for the possible development of U.S. Standards for Grades of Mangos. AMS received seven comments, one from a foreign government agency, two from trade organizations, three from importers, and one from growers and exporters. All of these comments supported the creation of U.S. standards.

Based on those comments, AMS has developed proposed grade standards for mangos. These standards contain sections pertaining to grades, sizes,

tolerances, application of tolerances, definitions, and a table of defects. This proposal would establish the following grades as well as a tolerance for each grade: U.S. Fancy, U.S. No. 1 and U.S. No. 2. In addition, a proposed "Application of Tolerances" section and "Size Requirements" section with a table listing size designations would also be established. AMS is proposing to define "Injury," "Damage," "Serious damage," along with specific basic requirements and other defects. Also proposed is a "Classification of Defects" section, in a table format, which would list some of the various defects affecting mangos and proposed scoring guides for the particular grade involved. AMS is soliciting comments on the proposed U.S. Standards for Grades of Mangos and the probable impact on growers, processors, and distributors.

According to AMS' Market News Branch Summaries referenced in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Shipments Report, from 1993 through 2003 mango importation continued to steadily increase in the U.S. Recently, the mango industry stressed the need for U.S. standards which would provide a uniform basis for trading mangos that are imported, exported, or marketed domestically.

The adoption of these proposed standards would provide the rapidly growing mango industry with U.S. grade standards similar to those extensively in use by the fresh produce industry to assist in orderly marketing of other commodities.

The official grade of a lot of mangos covered by these standards will be determined by the procedures set forth in the Regulations Governing Inspection, Certification, and Standards of Fresh Fruits, Vegetables and Other Products (Sec. 51.1 to 51.61).

This notice provides for a 60 day comment period for interested parties to comment on the proposed U.S. Standards for Grades of Mangos.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627.

Dated: March 7, 2005.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket Number FV-04-309]

United States Standards for Grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), is soliciting comments on its proposal to revise the United States Standards for Grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes. Specifically, AMS is proposing to revise the color and juice requirements. The proposed revision would simplify the two requirements in the standards which are complex and difficult to apply. These changes would bring the lime standards in line with other citrus standards, thereby, improving the usefulness in serving the industry.

DATES: Comments must be received by May 10, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 1661 South Building, Stop 0240, Washington, DC 20250-0240, fax (202) 720-8871, E-mail FPB.DocketClerk@usda.gov. Comments should make reference to the dates and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for public inspection in the above office during regular business hours. The U.S. Standards for Grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes are available either from the above address or the Fresh Products Branch Web site page at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/standards/limes.pdf>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David L. Priester, at the above address or call (202) 720-2185, E-mail David.Priester@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), as amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture "to develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade and packaging and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices * * *." AMS is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the

marketing of agricultural commodities and makes copies of official standards available upon request. The United States Standards for Grades of Fruits and Vegetables that are not requirements of Federal Marketing Orders or U.S. Import Requirements, no longer appear in the Code of Federal Regulations, but are maintained by USDA, AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

AMS is proposing to revise the voluntary U.S. Standards for Grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes using the procedures that appear in Part 36 Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR Part 36). These standards were last revised in 1958.

Background

Prior to undertaking research and other work associated with revision of the grade standards, AMS decided to seek public comments on the petition. A notice requesting comments on the possible revision of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes was published in the June 25, 2004, **Federal Register** (69 FR 35572).

In response to the request for comments, AMS received two comments. One comment from a private individual which did not support the revision. One comment from a national association of produce receivers favored the revision.

Based on the comments received and information gathered, AMS is proposing to revise the standards for limes following the standard format for U.S. Grade Standards. The proposed revisions would remove the requirements related to color which specify the percentage of the lime surface that shall have good green color. The standard also specifies that limes which fail to meet a grade due to blanching shall be designated as "Mixed Color" and limes that fail to meet a grade because of turning yellow due to ripening shall be designated as "Turning." Also, the proposed revision would remove the juice content requirement. This will result in limes with lesser color and juice content to be scored as defects using the existing "Damage" and "Serious Damage" definitions for "Blanching," "Yellow Color" and "Dryness or Mushy Condition." Therefore, when individual limes fail to meet the above requirements, they will be scored as defects against a given U.S. grade, and if the number of defects exceeds the total grade tolerance, the limes would fail to meet the U.S. grade. This proposal will bring the standards for limes in line with the other U.S. standards for citrus. AMS believes that