

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 07-06-047, filed 3/1/07, effective 4/1/07)

WAC 16-409-022 Asparagus grades. (1) The following table identifies and describes the asparagus grades used in Washington state:

Washington Asparagus Grades:					
Stalk Characteristics:	"Extra Fancy Grade Asparagus"	"Extra Fancy Grade Asparagus Tips"	"Fancy Grade Asparagus"	"Consumer Pack Asparagus"	"Culls"
Stalks must be:					
(a) Clean;	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
(b) Fresh;	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
(c) Fairly uniform in length;	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
(d) Well trimmed;	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
(e) Fairly well trimmed;	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
(f) Fairly straight;	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
(g) Not wilted;	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
(h) Not badly misshapen;	No	No	Yes	No	No
(i) Free from decay;	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
(j) Free from damage caused by spreading or broken tips, dirt, disease, insects, or mechanical or other means;	Yes	Yes	((Yes)) <u>See subsection (3) of this section</u>	Yes	No
(k) At least eighty-five percent green in color;	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
(l) All green.	No	Yes	No	No	No

(2) "Culls" describes asparagus that:

(a) Is not graded in conformity with Washington extra fancy, Washington extra fancy tips, Washington fancy, Washington consumer pack, or U.S. No. 1, or U.S. No. 2; and

(b) Must not be marketed if more than ten percent by count of the stalks show white in excess of two inches.

(3) "Fancy grade asparagus" is free from serious damage caused by spreading or broken tips, dirt, disease, insects or mechanical or other means.

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WAC 16-409-026 Adoption of U.S. standards for fresh asparagus as Washington state standards. (1) In addition to the Washington state fresh asparagus standards contained in this chapter, the Washington state department of agriculture has adopted, as Washington state standards, modified United States fresh asparagus standards for U.S. grades No. 1 and No. 2 as specified under the United States Department

of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Standards for Grades of Fresh Asparagus, Secs. 51.3720 to 51.3732; effective February 23, 2006.

(2) The department's modifications to the U.S. standards are as follows:

(a) U.S. No. 1 must meet or exceed Washington extra fancy grade requirements.

(b) U.S. No. 2 must meet or exceed Washington fancy grade requirements.