

Chapter Ag 26

POTATOES, CERTIFIED SEED

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Am Ag 26.01 Definitions. (1) "Certified" means stock upon which a field and bin inspection has been made and upon which a certificate based on these inspections has been issued by the Wisconsin college of agriculture.

Am (2) "Reasonably mature" means that the outer skin (epidermis) does not loosen or "feather" during the ordinary methods of handling to such an extent that the value for seed purposes has been materially injured.

Am (3) "Fairly well shaped" means that the appearance of the individual potato or the general appearance of the potatoes in the container is not materially injured by pointed, dumbbell-shaped or otherwise ill-formed potatoes.

(4) "Soft rot or wet breakdown" means any soft, mushy or leaky condition of the tissue such as slimy soft rot, leak or wet breakdown following freezing injury or sunscald.

Am (5) "Dry rot" includes fusarium wilt rot and similar conditions produced by storage rot organisms.

(6) "Diameter" means the greatest dimension at right angles to the longitudinal axis. The long axis shall be used without regard to the position of the stem (rhizome).

(7) "Damage" means any injury or defect which materially injures the appearance of the individual potato or the general appearance of the potatoes in the container, or which cannot be removed without a loss of more than 5 per cent of the total weight of the potatoes including peel covering defective area. Loss of outer skin (epidermis) shall not be considered as damage unless the skin surface is materially affected by very dark discoloration. 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) Dirt when the general appearance of the potatoes in the container is more than slightly dirty or stained, or when individual potatoes are badly caked with dirt or badly stained; or other foreign matter which materially affects the appearance of the potatoes.

(b) Second growth or growth cracks which have developed to such an extent as to materially injure the appearance of the individual potato or the general appearance of the potatoes in the container.

ju (c) Air cracks which are deep, or shallow air cracks which materially injure the appearance of the individual potato or the general appearance of the potatoes in the container.

(d) Shriveling when the potato is more than moderately shriveled, spongy, or flabby.

(e) Sprouting when more than 10% of the potatoes have sprouts over $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long.

(f) Surface scab which covers an area of more than 5% of the surface of the potato in the aggregate or pitted scab which affects the appearance of the potato to a greater extent than the amount of the surface scab permitted or causes a loss of more than 5% of the total weight of the potatoes including peel covering defective area.

(g) Rhizoctonia when the general appearance of the potatoes in the container is materially injured or when individual potatoes are badly infected.

(8) "Not badly misshapen" means that the appearance of the individual potato or the general appearance of the potatoes in the container is not seriously injured by pointed, dumbbell-shaped or otherwise badly ill-formed potatoes.

(9) "Serious damage" means any injury or defect which seriously injures the appearance of the individual potato or the general appearance of the potatoes in the container, or which cannot be removed without a loss of more than 10% of the total weight of the potato including peel covering defective area. Any 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) Shriveling when the potato is excessively shriveled, spongy or flabby.

(b) Pitted scab which seriously affects the appearance of the potato or causes a loss of more than 10% of the total weight of the potato including peel covering defective area.

Ag 26.02 Grades. (1) NAME. The grades to be used in packing Wisconsin certified seed potatoes shall be: "Badger State Brand Certified Seed", "Wisconsin Red Tag Certified Seed" and "Wisconsin Green Tag Certified Seed".

(2) PROHIBITION. No person shall, by himself, or by his servant or agent, or as servant or agent for another, sell, offer for sale, have in his possession with intent to sell, advertise, label or otherwise represent any potatoes as certified seed unless such potatoes conform to the requirements hereinafter provided.

Ag 26.03 Certificates required. (1) FIELD AND BIN INSPECTION. No potatoes shall be graded as Badger State Brand Certified Seed, Wisconsin Red Tag Certified Seed or Wisconsin Green Tag Certified Seed unless they are stock upon which a field and bin inspection has been made and upon which a certificate based upon these inspections has been issued by the Wisconsin College of Agriculture.

(2) FINAL INSPECTION. No potatoes shall be sold or offered for sale as Badger State Brand Certified Seed, Wisconsin Red Tag Certified Seed or Wisconsin Green Tag Certified Seed unless they shall have been inspected by an authorized representative of the Wisconsin state department of agriculture and are covered by an official inspection certificate showing that they conform to one of such grades.

Ag 26.04 Inspection. (1) APPLICATION. Any person desiring to sell or offer for sale potatoes as Wisconsin certified seed shall make application to the department for the required inspection. The applicant shall agree to pay and shall be liable for the expense of such inspection on a unit cost basis as determined from time to time by the department.

(2) NATURE OF INSPECTIONS. The inspections shall include determinations as to quality and condition. Tolerances for the standards shall be calculated on the basis of weight and will be allowed as hereinafter provided.

(3) TOLERANCES. The tolerances herein specified are expressed on a container basis. The grade of an entire lot may be determined on the basis of sample inspections. In such cases the averages for the entire lot must be within the tolerances specified for the respective grades, but the contents of individual packages in the lot may vary from the specified tolerances, subject to the following limitations:

(a) When the tolerance specified is 10% or more, not over one-tenth of the individual packages in the lot may contain more than one and one-half times the permitted tolerance.

(b) When the tolerance specified is less than 10%, not over one-tenth of the individual packages in the lot may contain more than double the tolerance specified.

Ag 26.05 Badger state brand. (1) GRADE REQUIREMENTS. This grade shall consist of potatoes of one variety certified by the Wisconsin college of agriculture, which are reasonably mature, fairly well shaped, and free from freezing injury, blackheart, late blight, and soft rot or wet breakdown, and from damage caused by dirt or other foreign matter, sunburn, second growth, growth cracks, air cracks, hollow heart, cuts, shriveling, sprouting, scab, dry rot, rhizoctonia, other disease, insect or mechanical or other means.

(2) SIZE. (a) Unless otherwise specified as hereinafter provided, the diameter of each potato of all varieties shall not be less than 1½ inches.

(b) Unless otherwise specified the maximum size of each potato may not exceed 12 ounces in weight.

(c) Any size smaller than 1½ inches or any size larger than 12 ounces is permissible, but only if the size is clearly stated on the tag or label showing the variety and the name and address of the grower.

(d) If desired, both the minimum and maximum sizes may be specified for any variety.

(3) TOLERANCE FOR SIZE. (a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper sizing, not more than 3% of the potatoes in any lot may be below the specified minimum size.

(b) In addition not more than 15% may be above any specified maximum size.

(4) TOLERANCE FOR DEFECTS. In order to allow for variation other than size incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 6% of the potatoes in any lot may be below the remaining requirements of the grade, but not more than one-half of this amount or 3% shall be allowed for potatoes damaged by scab, and not more than 1% shall be allowed for potatoes affected by soft rot or wet breakdown. In addition, not more than 5% of the potatoes may be damaged by hollow heart.

(5) BAGS. (a) Potatoes of this grade shall be in new clean bags bearing the official registered brand or trade-mark for Badger State Brand Certified Seed Potatoes, also the net weight. An official blue

tag showing variety, season and name and address of grower shall be attached to each container with the official metal seal furnished by the Wisconsin state department of agriculture.

(b) Upon receiving written application of a grower and satisfactory evidence that by reason of general shortage of bag materials he is unable within a reasonable time to obtain new bags bearing the registered Badger State Brand, the Wisconsin state department of agriculture may authorize him to package certified seed potatoes in other containers. The registered Badger State Brand shall not be printed, stenciled or placed in any manner upon any container except a new clean bag, nor otherwise than as herein provided.

(c) The Badger State Brand plate or design and registered label or trade-mark for Wisconsin Certified Seed Potatoes shall be printed only upon new bags. This printing shall be done only by a manufacturer who has executed a contract in writing with the Wisconsin state department of agriculture to dispose of such bags only in accordance with this order. The bag manufacturer shall furnish such bags only in specified numbers, and only to a person who has previously been authorized in writing by the Wisconsin state department of agriculture to obtain such bags.

Ag 26.06 Wisconsin red tag. (1) GRADE REQUIREMENTS. This grade shall consist of potatoes of one variety certified by the Wisconsin college of agriculture, which are reasonably mature, not badly misshapen, and free from freezing injury, blackheart, late blight and soft rot or wet breakdown, and from damage caused by dirt or other foreign matter, second growth, growth cracks, air cracks, cuts, shriveling, sprouting, scab, dry rot, rhizoctonia, other disease, insect or mechanical or other means.

(2) **SIZE.** The size requirements and the tolerances to be allowed shall be the same as for Badger State Brand Certified Seed Potatoes.

(3) **TOLERANCES FOR DEFECTS.** In order to allow for variation other than size incident to proper grading and handling, not more than a total of 20% of the potatoes in any container may be below the remaining requirements of this grade, but not more than 3% may be allowed for potatoes damaged by scab and not more than 6% may be allowed for defects causing serious damage, provided that not more than one-sixth of this amount, or 1 per cent, shall be allowed for potatoes affected by soft rot or wet breakdown.

(4) **TAGS AND CONTAINERS.** Potatoes of this grade shall be in new clean bags, which may be plain or bear the brand of the grower or dealer, but shall not have a grade designation. An official red tag printed with the words "Wisconsin Red Tag Certified Seed (Second Quality)", and showing variety, season, name and address of grower and the net weight shall be attached to each container with the official metal seal furnished by the Wisconsin state department of agriculture.

Ag 26.07 Wisconsin green tag. (1) GRADE REQUIREMENTS. This grade shall consist of potatoes of one variety certified by the Wisconsin college of agriculture which are free from late blight, freezing injury, blackheart, and soft rot or wet breakdown and from serious damage caused by internal discoloration, shatter bruises, shriveling, pitted scab, dry rot, other disease or other means.

(2) **SIZE.** The size requirements and the tolerances to be allowed shall be the same as for Badger State Brand Certified Seed Potatoes and Wisconsin Red Tag Certified Seed Potatoes.

(3) **TOLERANCE FOR DEFECTS.** In order to allow for variation other than size incident to proper grading and handling, not more than a total of 6% of the potatoes in any container may be below the remaining requirements of this grade, but not to exceed one-sixth of this amount, or one per cent, shall be allowed for potatoes affected by soft rot or wet breakdown.

(4) **TAGS AND CONTAINERS.** Potatoes of this grade shall be in new clean bags, which may be plain or bear the brand of the grower or dealer, but shall not have a grade designation. An official green tag printed with the words "Wisconsin Green Tag Certified Seed (Third Quality)" and showing variety, season, name and address of grower and the net weight shall be attached to each container with the official metal seal furnished by the Wisconsin state department of agriculture.

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Note: See Ag 27.04.