

Chapter Ag 26

POTATOES, CERTIFIED SEED

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Ag 26.01 Definitions. (1) "Department" means the State Department of Agriculture.

(2) "College" means the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin.

(3) The grades of Wisconsin certified seed potatoes are: Badger State Brand Certified Seed, Wisconsin Red Tag Certified Seed, Blue Tag Growers' Foundation Seed, and Red Tag Growers' Foundation Seed.

(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.

(5) "Internal discoloration" means discoloration such as is caused by net necrosis or any other type of necrosis, stem-end browning, internal brown spot, or other similar types of discoloration not visible externally, except blackheart.

(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) "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.

(8) "Damage" means any injury or defect which materially injures the edible or shipping quality, or 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% of the total weight of the potato including peel covering defective area. 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) 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.

(b) 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.

(c) External discoloration, when skinned areas on individual potatoes are materially affected by dark discoloration, or when the general appearance of the lot is materially affected by discoloration.

(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 three-fourths of an inch long.

(f) Surface scab which covers an area of more than 5% of the surface of the potato in the aggregate.

(g) Pitted scab which affects the appearance of the potato to a greater extent than the amount of surface scab permitted or causes a loss of more than 5% of the total weight of the potato including peel covering defective area.

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

(i) Wireworm, grass root or similar injury, when any hole, on potatoes ranging in size from 6 to 8 ounces, is longer than three-fourths of an inch or when the aggregate length of all holes is more than 1¼ inches. Smaller potatoes shall have lesser amounts and larger potatoes may have greater amounts, provided that the removal of the injury by proper trimming does not cause the appearance of such potatoes to be injured to a greater extent than that caused by the proper trimming of such injury permitted on a 6 to 8 ounce potato.

(j) 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.

(9) "Serious damage" means any injury or defect which seriously injures the edible or shipping quality, or 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 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) Dirt, when the general appearance of the potatoes in the container is seriously affected by tubers badly caked with dirt; or other foreign matter which seriously affects the appearance of the potatoes.

(b) External discoloration, when skinned areas on individual potatoes are seriously affected by very dark discoloration, or when the general appearance of the lot is seriously affected by discoloration.

(c) Fairly smooth cuts such as are made by the digger or by a knife to remove injury, when both ends are clipped, or when more than an estimated one-fourth of the potato is cut away, or, in the case of long varieties, when the remaining portion of the clipped potato weighs less than 6 ounces. Irregular types of cuts which seriously affect the appearance of the individual potato, or which cannot be removed without a loss of more than 10% of the total weight of the potato including peel covering defective area.

(d) Shriveling, when the potato is excessively shriveled, spongy, or flabby.

(e) Surface scab which covers an area of more than 50% of the surface of the potato in the aggregate.

(f) Pitted scab which affects the appearance of the potato to a greater extent than the amount of surface scab permitted or causes a loss of more than 10% of the total weight of the potato including peel covering defective area.

(g) Wireworm, grass root or similar injury, when any hole, on potatoes ranging in size from 6 to 8 ounces, is longer than 1¼ inches or when the aggregate length of all holes is more than 2 inches. Smaller potatoes shall have lesser amounts and larger potatoes may have greater amounts, provided that the removal of the injury by proper trimming does not cause the appearance of such potatoes to be injured to a greater extent than that caused by the proper trimming of such injury permitted on a 6 to 8 ounce potato.

(h) Sunburn, when more than one-third of the surface of the potato shows green color.

History: 1-2-56; am. (1), (2), (3), (5), (7), (8), (9), Register, September, 1957, No. 21, eff. 10-1-57; cr. (h), Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61; am. (3), Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62.

Ag 26.02 Prohibitions. (1) 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. It shall be unlawful to use or employ the term "certified" or the term "inspected" or any term or terms conveying a meaning substantially equivalent to the meaning of any of these terms, either orally or in writing, printing, marking or otherwise in reference to or in connection with, or in advertising or characterizing or labeling seed potatoes or the containers thereof, unless such potatoes shall have been duly inspected and certified pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(2) This section shall not apply to potatoes which have been officially inspected and certified as to quality in another state by an authorized agency of such state.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, September, 1957, No. 21, eff. 10-1-57; renum. Ag 26.02 to be Ag 26.02 (1) and cr. (2), Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61.

Ag 26.03 Certificates required. (1) **FIELD AND BIN INSPECTIONS.** No potatoes shall be graded unless they are stock upon which a field and bin inspection has been made for variety, cultural practices and disease conditions, and upon which a certificate based upon these inspections has been issued by the college.

(2) **FINAL INSPECTION.** No potatoes shall be represented or sold as seed potatoes of a grade prescribed in this chapter unless they have been officially inspected and a certificate issued showing that they conform to such grade.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, September, 1957, No. 21, eff. 10-1-57; am. (2), Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61.

Ag 26.04 Inspection. (1) **APPLICATION; COSTS.** Any person desiring to sell or offer for sale potatoes as Wisconsin certified seed or Growers' Foundation 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) **PERMITTED 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, individual packages in any lot may contain not more than one and one-half times the tolerance specified, except that at least one defective and one off-size specimen shall be permitted in a package.

(b) When the tolerance specified is less than 10%, individual packages in any lot may contain not more than double the tolerance specified except that for frozen potatoes, or those affected by soft rot or wet breakdown, not more than one-tenth of the packages may contain more than double the tolerance but not more than four times the tolerance specified, and except that at least one defective and one off-size specimen shall be permitted in a package.

History: 1-2-56; am. (1) and (3), Register, September, 1957, No. 21, eff. 10-1-57.

Ag 26.05 Badger State Brand. (1) **GRADE REQUIREMENTS.** Badger State Brand Certified Seed shall consist of potatoes of one variety, certified by the college, which are fairly well shaped, not frozen; which are free from freezing injury, blackheart, late blight, ring rot 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, wireworm, other insects or mechanical or other means and which are free from serious damage caused by sunburn, hollow heart, mahogany browning and internal necrosis.

(2) **SIZE.** Unless a different minimum or maximum size is clearly stated on the official tag, the minimum size of each potato shall not be less than 1½ inches in diameter and the maximum size shall not exceed 12 ounces in weight.

(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 minimum size.

(b) Not more than 15% of the potatoes in any lot may exceed the maximum size; provided, when the maximum size is not more than 12 ounces, the quantity of potatoes in excess of 16 ounces shall not exceed 5% of such lot.

(4) **TOLERANCE FOR DEFECTS.** In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling other than size, hollow heart, mahogany browning and internal necrosis, not more than a total of 6% of the potatoes in any lot may fail to meet the required grade, but not more than 3% of the potatoes in any lot shall be affected by late blight or damaged by scab, and including not more than one per cent for potatoes that are frozen or affected with soft rot or wet

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breakdown. In addition to the above tolerances, not more than 5% of the potatoes may be seriously damaged by sunburn and not more than 5% of the potatoes may be seriously damaged by hollow heart, mahogany browning and internal necrosis. No tolerance shall be allowed for bacterial ring rot.

(5) **BAGS.** Potatoes of this grade shall be in new clean bags bearing the official registered brand or trade-mark for Badger State Brand Certified Seed or the brand of the grower or an organization through which he markets his seed potatoes. They shall not have a grade designation. That part of the printing and design of the registered brand or trade-mark consisting of a scroll is not required to be printed on the bag. An official blue tag, printed with the words "Badger State Brand Certified Seed" and showing net weight, variety, season, and name and address of grower, shall be attached to each bag with the official metal seal furnished by the department.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, September, 1957, No. 21, eff. 10-1-57; am. (4), Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 2-1-61; am. (5), Register, January, 1961, No. 61, eff. 8-1-61; am. (5), Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62.

Ag 26.06 Wisconsin Red Tag. (1) GRADE REQUIREMENTS. Wisconsin Red Tag Certified Seed shall consist of potatoes of one variety, certified by the college, which are not badly misshapen, not frozen, free from freezing injury, blackheart, late blight, ring rot, and soft rot or wet breakdown, and from damage caused by dirt or other foreign matter, growth cracks, air cracks, cuts, shriveling, sprouting, scab, dry rot, rhizoctonia, other disease, wireworm, other insects or mechanical or other means and which are free from serious damage caused by mahogany browning or internal necrosis.

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

(3) **TOLERANCE FOR DEFECTS.** In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling other than size, hollow heart, mahogany browning and internal necrosis, not more than a total of 20% of the potatoes in any lot may fail to meet the required grade, but not more than 6% shall be allowed for defects causing serious damage and not more than 3% of the potatoes in any lot shall be affected by late blight or damaged by scab, and including not more than 1% for potatoes that are frozen or affected with soft rot or wet breakdown. In addition to the above tolerances, not more than 5% of the potatoes may be seriously damaged by mahogany browning or internal necrosis. No tolerance shall be allowed for bacterial ring rot.

(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 an organization through which he markets his seed potatoes. They shall not have a grade designation. An official red tag, printed with the words "Wisconsin Red Tag Certified Seed" and showing variety, season, name and address of grower, and net weight, shall be attached to each container with the official metal seal furnished by the department.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, September, 1957, No. 21, eff. 10-1-57; am. (3), Register, March, 1958, No. 27, eff. 4-1-58; am. (4), Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62.

Ag 26.07 Growers' Foundation Seed. (1) BLUE TAG. (a) *Grade requirements.* Blue Tag Growers' Foundation Seed shall consist of potatoes of one variety, certified by the college, which shall meet the grade requirements of Badger State Brand Certified Seed.

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

(c) *Tags and containers.* Potatoes of this grade shall be in new clean bags, which shall bear the official Badger State Brand or the brand of the grower or the organization through which he markets his seed potatoes. They shall not have a grade designation. The official blue tag used for Badger State Brand Certified Seed, with the word "Foundation" overprinted on the face of the tag, shall be attached to each container with the official metal seal furnished by the department.

(2) RED TAG. (a) *Grade requirements.* Red Tag Growers' Foundation Seed shall consist of potatoes of one variety, certified by the college, which shall meet the grade requirements of Wisconsin Red Tag Certified Seed.

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

(c) *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 the organization through which he markets his seed potatoes. They shall not have a grade designation. The official red tag used for Wisconsin Red Tag Certified Seed, with the word "Foundation" overprinted on the face of the tag, shall be attached to each container with the official metal seal furnished by the department.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, September, 1957, No. 21, eff. 10-1-57; am. Register, August, 1962, No. 80, eff. 9-1-62.