

**CHAPTER 1555**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**FOOD DEFINITIONS AND STANDARDS**

1555.6740 GENERAL GUIDANCE

1555.6950 MINNESOTA CERTIFIED SEED  
POTATO GRADES AND TOLERANCES**1555.6740 GENERAL GUIDANCE.***[For text of subs 1 to 4, see M.R.]*

**Subp 5 Certified seed potato grades.** Grades of certified seed potatoes are established according to the physical defects of the tubers. There are three grades used for shipping Minnesota certified seed potatoes

A The blue tag certified seed potato grade, the first grade, has tolerances for physical defects of the tubers stricter than the other grades. This grade may be used by growers of Primary Foundation certified, Foundation certified, Generation certified, and Certified seed potatoes. The blue tag grade may be used for intrastate and interstate shipments of certified seed potatoes

B The yellow tag certified seed potato grade is the second grade. This grade allows more physical defects of the tubers than the blue tag certified seed potato grade. It may be used by growers of Primary Foundation certified, Foundation certified, Generation certified, and Certified seed potatoes. The yellow tag grade may also be used for intrastate and interstate shipments of certified seed potatoes

C. The white tag certified seed potato grade is the third grade. The tolerances for physical defects of the tubers are determined by agreement between purchaser and seller of the certified seed potatoes. It may only be used for intrastate shipments of certified seed potatoes.

*[For text of subs 6 and 7, see M.R.]***Statutory Authority:** *MS s 21 118***History:** *22 SR 1547***1555.6950 MINNESOTA CERTIFIED SEED POTATO GRADES AND TOLERANCES.***[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.R.]***Subp 3 [Repealed, 22 SR 1547]**

**Subp 3a Minnesota yellow tag certified seed potato grade.** To be graded as Minnesota yellow tag certified seed potatoes, the potatoes must meet the requirements in items A to D

A Condition. At the time of final inspection, the potatoes must be of one variety, unwashed, fairly well-shaped, free from bacterial ring rot, powdery scab, late blight, freezing, black heart, and soft rot or wet breakdown, and free from damage caused by second growth, air cracks, cuts, shriveling, pitted scab, surface scab, dry rot, other diseases, insects or worms, mechanical means or other means, and from serious damage caused by soil or other foreign matter, hollow heart, wireworm, growth cracks, russet scab, or internal discoloration other than hollow heart. Sunburn and silver scurf are not factors.

B Size. For all varieties, the maximum size is 14 ounces (396.9 grams) and the minimum size is 1-1/2 inch (38.1 mm) in diameter. For all varieties, the minimum diameter for size "B" shall not be less than 1-1/2 inches (38.1 millimeters) and the maximum diameter shall not be more than 2-1/4 inches (57.1 millimeters). The department may grade potatoes that do not meet the maximum and minimum size specifications as Minnesota yellow tag certified seed potatoes if the buyer agrees to accept potatoes of alternate size specifications from the grower and these specifications are listed on the tag or bulk inspection certificate issued by the department.

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C Lot tolerances In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, the following tolerances, by weight, are provided

(1) for defects.

(a) 20 percent for potatoes seriously damaged by hollow heart,

(b) five percent for potatoes seriously damaged by internal discoloration (other than hollow heart);

(c) ten percent for potatoes seriously damaged by soil or other foreign matter;

(d) ten percent for potatoes seriously damaged by wireworm,

(e) 20 percent for potatoes that fail to meet the remaining requirements of the grade with not more than six percent serious damage provided that included in that amount not more than the following percentages are allowed for the following defects

i soft rot, frozen, or wet breakdown, 0.5 percent,

ii damaged by surface or pitted scab, 5.0 percent,

iii. damaged by dry rot, 2.0 percent, of which not more than 1.0 percent is late blight tuber rot,

iv. bacterial ring rot, 0.0 percent,

v powdery scab, 0.0 percent, and

vi late blight tuber rot, 1.0 percent, and

(f) the following do not affect seed quality and must not be scored against the grade

i. brown discoloration following skinning,

ii dried stems,

iii flattened or depressed areas with or without underlying flesh discoloration,

iv greening,

v sunburn

vi skin checks,

vii silver scurf, and

viii sprouts, and

(2) for offsize

(a) five percent for potatoes that fail to meet the required or specified minimum size, and

(b) ten percent for potatoes that fail to meet the required maximum size.

D Shape The potatoes must be fairly well shaped, with an exception for long varieties when specified as "except for shape." In that case the tubers may be misshapen.

[For text of subs 4 to 7, see MR.]

**Statutory Authority:** *MS s 21 118*

**History:** *22 SR 1547*