

AG302

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT 1929  
PLUM GRADING AND PACKING CODE 1992

Made by the Minister for Agriculture under section 3F.

PART 1 — PRELIMINARY

**Citation**

1. This Code may be cited as the *Plum Grading and Packing Code 1992*.

**Commencement**

2. This Code shall come into operation on the day of its publication in the *Government Gazette*.

**Interpretation**

3. In this Code, unless the contrary intention appears —

“**abnormal external moisture**” means distinctly wet (but does not include condensation following release from cold storage);

“**blemish**” means any superficial disfigurement of the skin that is not likely to affect the keeping quality of the plum, and includes slight chemical burns and healed injury such as by insect damage, superficial hail damage, abrasions, scratches and rubs, but does not include sunburn;

“**class**” means the quality class into which plums are graded;

“**clean**” means visibly free from any dirt, dust, chemical residue or other foreign matter;

“**defect**” means any abnormal development of shape, colour or condition that detracts from the quality, general appearance or presentation of the plum;

“**intact**” means practically free from any mutilation or injury spoiling the plum;

“**mature**” means having reached the stage of development that will ensure a proper completion of the ripening process;

“**processing**” means any operation that subjects the plums to thermal processing (not including cold storage) or juicing or that renders the plums a fruit product;

"sound" means not over-ripe, soft or wilted, and free from rot, excessive bruising and physical injury, internal or external, that is likely to affect the keeping quality of the plum; and

"well-filled" means that the package is filled to the extent that the plums, after settling, cannot move within the package during normal handling.

#### Application

4. (1) Subject to section 5 of the Act, this Code applies to the sale of plums (*Prunus domestica*, *P. institia* and *P. salicina*) other than for the purpose of processing.

(2) Clauses 18 and 19 do not apply to a retail sale.

### PART 2 — GRADING

#### Grading into classes

5. Plums may be graded as —

- (a) Extra Class;
- (b) Class 1;
- (c) Class 2; or
- (d) Class 3,

if they comply with the requirements for the relevant class as prescribed by this Part.

#### Minimum requirements

6. Plums in all classes other than Class 3 shall be —

- (a) intact;
- (b) sound;
- (c) clean;
- (d) practically free from sunburn;
- (e) free from abnormal external moisture;
- (f) free from any foreign smell or taste; and
- (g) of a minimum size, according to variety, as specified in the Table to clause 12.

#### Maturity

7. (1) Plums shall be mature.

(2) Plums of the variety Prune D'Agen shall have a minimum maturity level of 20° Brix.

**Classes**

8. (1) Subject to Part 3, plums graded as Extra Class shall be —
- (a) well-formed and typical of the variety;
  - (b) practically free from defects and blemishes, other than very slight blemishes; and
  - (c) free from damage caused by pests and diseases.
- (2) Subject to Part 3, plums graded as Class 1 shall be —
- (a) reasonably well-formed and typical of the variety;
  - (b) reasonably free from defects and blemishes, other than very slight blemishes; and
  - (c) reasonably free from damage caused by pests and diseases.
- (3) Subject to Part 3, Class 2 shall comprise plums that are not suitable for Extra Class or Class 1, but satisfy the minimum requirements as specified in clause 6 and may have —
- (a) reasonable defects in shape, development and colouring, subject to the plum retaining its general characteristics;
  - (b) skin blemishes that do not exceed one quarter of the whole surface of the plum and do not impair unduly the general appearance and presentation of the plum.
- (4) Class 3 shall comprise plums that do not satisfy the requirements of any of the other classes.

**Determination of size for grading**

9. The size of a plum for grading purposes shall be measured by the maximum diameter of the equatorial section of the plum.

**PART 3 — PACKING****Single variety**

10. A package of plums shall not contain plums of any variety other than the variety marked on the package.

**Mixture of plums by class**

11. A package of plums may contain plums of mixed classes, other than Class 3.

**Size variations**

12. (1) Extra Class and Class 1 plums shall be graded according to size.
- (2) Plums in a package marked "UNCLASSSED" are not required to be sized.
- (3) The size of Class 2 plums packed in containers marked "UNSIZED" may vary without limit.

TABLE

Item	Variety	Minimum size (millimetres)	
		Extra Class and Class 1	Class 2
1.	Narrabeen	50	55
2.	Wickson Creswell Mariposa Elephant Heart	45	50
3.	Prune D'Agen	32	32
4.	All other varieties (other than Wilson and Cherry Plum)	40	40

**Tolerances**

13. A package of plums may contain —

- (a) in the case of Extra Class plums, a maximum of 5 per cent by number or net mass of plums not satisfying the requirements of that class but satisfying the requirements of Class 1;
- (b) in the case of Class 1 plums, a maximum of 10 per cent by number or net mass of plums not satisfying the requirements of that class but satisfying the requirements of Class 2;
- (c) in respect of size for Extra Class and Class 1 plums, a maximum of 10 per cent by number or net mass of plums not more than 2 millimetres greater or less than the size or size range marked on the package;
- (d) in the case of Class 1 and Class 2 plums, not more than 10 per cent by number of plums affected by hail damage, subject to —
  - (i) the damage being superficial and the skin being unbroken;
  - (ii) individual hail marks not exceeding 3 millimetres in diameter; and
  - (iii) the aggregate affected area on any plum not exceeding 6 millimetres in diameter;
- (e) plums that have a damaged or missing stalk, if there is no risk of the plums rotting.

**Uniformity of plums within packages**

14. The contents of each package of —

- (a) Extra Class plums shall be uniform in shape and colour;
- (b) Class 1 plums shall be practically uniform in shape and colour; and
- (c) Class 2 plums shall be reasonably uniform in shape and colour.

**Presentation of plums**

15. (1) Each package shall be well-filled and packed in a manner that allows the plums to withstand handling and transport.

(2) Subject to this Part and Part 2, each package shall contain only plums of the same variety, strain, quality and degree of ripeness.

(3) Any plums packed in a package that are visible shall be representative of the contents of the package.

(4) Packages containing plums shall be free from extraneous plant material such as leaves and spurs.

**Packaging materials**

16. (1) Packages into which any plums are packed shall be —

- (a) clean;
- (b) free from all foreign matter; and
- (c) of a quality, design and construction suitable for protecting the plums from damage.

(2) Materials used inside packages shall be new.

**PART 4 — MARKING****Packages marked "Unclassed"**

17. A package containing plums of mixed classes as permitted by clause 11 shall be marked "UNCLASSED".

**Complete trade description to be applied**

18. (1) The complete trade description shall —

- (a) be applied —
  - (i) on new rigid type packages, to at least one end of each package;
  - (ii) on packages intended for re-use (wooden cases, plastic crates, wooden or fibreboard bulk bins and wire sided bulk bins), on a label or ticket at least 100 mm x 70 mm, securely affixed to one side of the package; and
- (b) be in prominent, indelible and legible characters at least 5 millimetres high.

(2) Before a marking is applied to a package intended for re-use, all particulars relating to previous use of the package shall be removed or obliterated.

(3) A marking inside a package shall be made with a non-toxic ink or glue.

**Information to be included in trade description**

19. Subject to Part 3, the trade description shall contain —

- (a) the name and address of the person who packed the plums;
- (b) the word "plum" or "plums";

- (c) the full name of the variety of the plum contained in the package or the abbreviation of that name as shown in the second column of the Table to this clause;
- (d) the class of the plums;
- (e) the size, size range or count of the plums; and
- (f) in the case of —
  - (i) a package of Class 2 plums that have not been sized; or
  - (ii) a package marked "UNCLASSSED" containing plums that have not been sized,
 the word "UNSIZED".

TABLE

VARIETY	ABBREVIATION
Angelina Burdett	Ang
Beauty	Bty
Black Amber	B Amber
Blue Diamond	B Dia
Casselman	Cass
Coe's Golden Drop	Coe's GD
Coe's Golden Gage	CGG
Creswell	Cres
Deleware	Del
Early Blaze	E Blaze
Elephant Heart	E heart
Elizabeths	Eliz
Grand Duke	G Duke
Green Gage	Gr G
Gulf Ruby	G Ruby
Harry Pickstone	Harry P
Jefferson	Jeff
Kelsey	Kelsey
Laroda	Laroda
Mariposa	Mari
Narrabeen	Narra
October Purple	Oct
Pickering	Pick
President	Pres
Prune D'Agen	D'Agen
Radiance	Rad
Red Beaut	R Beaut
Reine Claude De Barray	RCL
Ruby Blood	R Bl
Salad	Salad
Santa Rosa	S Rosa
Satsuma	Sat
Shiro	Shiro
Simka	Simka
Stirling	Stirling
Skipper	Skip
Wickson	Wick
Wilson	Wil
Wilson Seedling	Wills
8-1	8-1
All other varieties	Full name

#### Trade description for retail sale

20. (1) A label showing the class of the plums shall be attached to each display of plums offered for retail sale and if the label specifies a variety of plum the plums displayed shall correspond to the variety so specified.

(2) If a display includes a mixture of varieties, the label shall show the full names of the individual varieties within the mixture.

(3) The marking on the label shall be in prominent, legible characters at least 25 millimetres high.

#### **Prohibited quality descriptions**

21. Plums shall not be designated as "special", "specially packed", "selected", "fancy" or by any other word or form of words that indicates that the plums have special quality characteristics.

### **PART 5 — REPEAL**

#### **Repeal of former code**

22. The *Plum Grading and Packing Code 1983\** is repealed.

[\* *Published in the Gazette on 23 September 1983 at pp. 3875-76.*]

ERNIE BRIDGE, Minister for Agriculture.

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