



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

**Agricultural  
Marketing  
Service**

**Fruit and  
Vegetable  
Division**

**Fresh  
Products  
Branch**

# **United States Standards for Grades of Mixed Nuts in the Shell**

**Effective August 18, 1981**  
*(Reprinted - January 1997)*

# United States Standards for Grades of Mixed Nuts in the Shell <sup>1</sup>

---

## **General**

51.3520 General

## **Grades**

51.3521 U.S. Extra Fancy.

51.3522 U.S. Fancy.

51.3523 U.S. Commercial or U.S. Select.

## **General**

### **§51.3520 General.**

Any lot of mixed nuts in the shell which is classified as meeting the requirements of a U.S. grade for mixed nuts in the shell is required to conform to the applicable mixture, sizes, and grades set forth in one of the following grades. Each species of nut shall be graded individually in accordance with U.S. standards currently in effect for that species. The percentages in the mixture shall be determined on the basis of weight, and each species must conform to the minimum and maximum percentages specified in the mixture as set forth in §§51.3521 -- 51.3523. A composite sample shall be drawn to determine mixture, size, and grade. When any species in a lot fails to meet the applicable requirements as to mixture, size, or grade prescribed for a particular U.S. grade for mixed nuts in the shell, the entire lot fails to meet the requirements of such U.S. grade.

---

<sup>1</sup>Compliance with the provisions of these standards shall not excuse failure to comply with the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, or with applicable State laws and regulations.

**Grades**  
**§51.3521 U.S. Extra Fancy.**

Nut Species	Allowable mixture		Minimum size	Minimum grade
	Minimum percent	Maximum percent		
Almonds	10	40	28/64 inch (11.1 mm)	U.S. No. 1
Brazils	10	40	Medium	U.S. No. 1
Filberts	10	40	Long type varieties: 44/64 inch (17.5 mm) Round type varieties: 49/64 inch (19.4 mm)	U.S. No. 1
Pecans	10	40	Extra Large	U.S. No. 1
Walnuts	10	40	Large	U.S. No. 1

**§51.3522 U.S. Fancy.**

Nut Species	Allowable mixture		Minimum size	Minimum grade
	Minimum percent	Maximum percent		
Almonds	10	40	28/64 inch (11.1 mm)	U.S. No. 1
Brazils	10	40	Medium	U.S. No. 1
Filberts	10	40	Long type varieties: 44/64 inch (17.5 mm) Round type varieties: 49/64 inch (19.4 mm)	U.S. No. 1
Pecans	10	40	Large	U.S. No. 1
Walnuts	10	40	Medium	U.S. No. 1

**§51.3523 U.S. Commercial or U.S. Select.**

Nut Species	Allowable mixture		Minimum size	Minimum grade
	Minimum percent	Maximum percent		
Almonds	5	40	28/64 inch (11.1 mm)	U.S. No. 1
Brazils	5	40	Medium	U.S. No. 1
Filberts	5	40	Long type varieties: 34/64 inch (13.5 mm) Round type varieties: 45/64 inch (17.9 mm)	U.S. No. 1
Pecans	5	40	Medium - (a) External quality: U.S. No. 1 (b) Internal quality: 75 percent U.S. No. 1 quality with not more than 10 percent seriously damaged kernels, including therein not more than 7 percent which are rancid, moldy, decayed, or injured by insects, including not more than one-half of one percent live insects inside the shell.	
Walnuts	5	40	Baby - (a) External quality: 85 percent U.S. No. 1 quality. (b) Internal quality: 85 percent U.S. No. 1 quality, except that the lot need only meet the requirement for U.S. No. 2 grade for kernel color; with not more than 8 percent seriously damaged kernels, including therein not more than 5 percent which are damaged by insects.	