

# Export Tuber Grading

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## Export Grading Standards

All tubers must meet the following criteria:

- Good, healthy overall appearance and well cured
- Free of any visible signs of disease, pests, fungal damage, rot, pinking, blue mould etc.
- No sign of any calcification, spongy or dead tissue
- Free of virus - crop MUST be inspected for virus in the preceding growing season
- Clean of all dirt, roots and other foreign matter
- Must be less than 5% cuts to the surface of the tuber - all exposed surfaces must be dry and well healed
- At least one intact central growing point, surrounded by secondary growing points (to help alleviate apical dominance).
- No cracks entering the main growing tip
- No 'biscuits' (flat) or 'bullets' (taller than wide) tubers. Tubers must have a bulky appearance.

## SIZE

The following standard sizes are used for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle tubers:

USA <i>inches</i>	Dutch <i>circumference cm</i>	New Zealand <i>diameter cm</i>	Actual <i>comparison</i>
1.5	12-14	3 – 4cm	(3.8cm)
1.75	14-16	4 – 5cm	(4.5cm)
2	16-18	5 – 6cm	(5.1cm)
2.25	18-20	6cm	(5.7cm)
2.5	20-22	6cm+	(6.5cm)



- Tuber size is measured across the diameter of the narrowest side
- The above sizes are based on fully cured tubers.

Maximum shrinkage occurs in curing and the first three weeks of storage. Tubers are best measured four to six weeks after lifting. Allowance should be made for further decrease in size even after the curing period.