



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Agricultural
Marketing
Service**

**Fruit and
Vegetable
Division**

**Fresh
Products
Branch**

United States Standards for Grades of Asparagus Plumosus

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United States Standards for Grades of Asparagus Plumosus¹

Grades

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Grades

§51.4455 U.S. Fancy.

"U.S. Fancy" consists of bunches of well trimmed sprays of Asparagus Plumosus which are mature and well shaped; free from shattering, second growths, and from damage by any cause. Unless otherwise specified, the foliage shall be of good green color. (See §51.4458.)

(a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 10 percent, by count, of any lot may be below the requirements of this grade but not part of this tolerance shall be allowed for sprays which are shattering.

§51.4456 U.S. No. 1.

"U.S. No. 1" consists of bunches of well trimmed sprays of Asparagus Plumosus which are mature; free from shattering, second growths, and from damage by any cause. Not less than 60 percent, by count, of the sprays shall be fairly well shaped and the remainder shall be not badly misshapen. Unless otherwise specified, the foliage shall be of good green color. (See §51.4458.)

(a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling not more than 10 percent, by count, of any lot may be below the requirements of this grade but not part of this tolerance shall be allowed for sprays which are shattering.

§51.4457 U.S. Commercial.

"U.S. Commercial" consists of bunches of well trimmed sprays of Asparagus Plumosus which are mature; free from shattering, young second growths, and from serious damage by any cause. Unless otherwise specified, the foliage shall be of good green color. (See §51.4458.)

¹Packing of the product in conformity with the requirements 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.

(a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling not more than 10 percent, by count, of any lot may be below the requirements of this grade but no part of this tolerance shall be allowed for sprays which are shattering.

Size

§51.4458 Size.

(a) The following terms are provided for general description of sizes. It is not the general practice to size Plumosus uniformly; therefore, lots should not be quoted as Corsage, Short, Medium, or Long unless they have been specifically sized to meet the specified requirements. Plumosus may be quoted as "Short to Medium", "Short to Long", or "Medium to Long" in accordance with the facts:

Corsage	Short	Medium	Long
10 to 15 in. inclusive	16 to 21 in. inclusive	22 to 32 in. inclusive	Over 33 in.

(b) For lots which have been sized in accordance with the provisions of the above classification, the following tolerance is provided:

(1) In order to allow for variations incident to proper sizing not more than 20 percent, by count, of any lot may not meet the size requirements; but not more than one-half of this tolerance, or 10 percent may vary not more than 2 inches above the maximum length or below the minimum length of the specified size. Length shall be considered as the overall distance from end to end of the spray measured to the nearest whole inch.

Definitions

§51.4459 Well trimmed.

"Well trimmed" means that all noticeably damaged portions of the foliage have been neatly removed, together with as many of the lower side fronds as may be necessary to provide sufficient bare stem for proper tying and handling. In the Corsage size not more than one-half of the entire spray length may consist of bare stem; in the Short and Medium sizes not more than one-third of the entire spray length may consist of bare stem; in the Long size not more than 12 inches of the entire spray length may consist of bare stem.

§51.4460 Mature.

"Mature" means that the spray has reached that stage of growth at which the foliage is fully developed.

§51.4461 Well shaped.

"Well shaped" means that the stem of the spray is fairly stiff and fairly erect; the portion of the stem bearing the foliage does not show any crooked growth other than a slight curving or the normal characteristic drooping; the bare stem is not decidedly coiled or angular; the tip of the spray is practically perfect; the side fronds are spaced reasonably close together considering the length of the spray and with practically perfect tips.

§51.4462 Fairly well shaped.

"Fairly well shaped" means that the stem may show a reasonable amount of coiled, angular, or vine-like growth considering the length of the spray; the tip of the spray is practically perfect, and the side fronds are spaced reasonably close together considering the length of the spray.

§51.4463 Badly misshapen.

"Badly misshapen" means that the stem is decidedly coiled, or decidedly angular, or decidedly vine-like, or that the side fronds are spaced so far apart as to cause the spray to appear decidedly lacking in foliage. Forked, topped, and stump-like sprays shall be considered as badly misshapen when they appear decidedly lacking in foliage.

§51.4464 Good green color.

"Good green color" means that the spray foliage is a deep lustrous green of fresh attractive appearance.

§51.4465 Damage.

"Damage" means any material injury to the appearance of the spray caused by insects, disease, mechanical or other means.

§51.4466 Serious damage.

"Serious damage" means serious injury to the appearance of the spray caused by insects, disease, mechanical or other means.

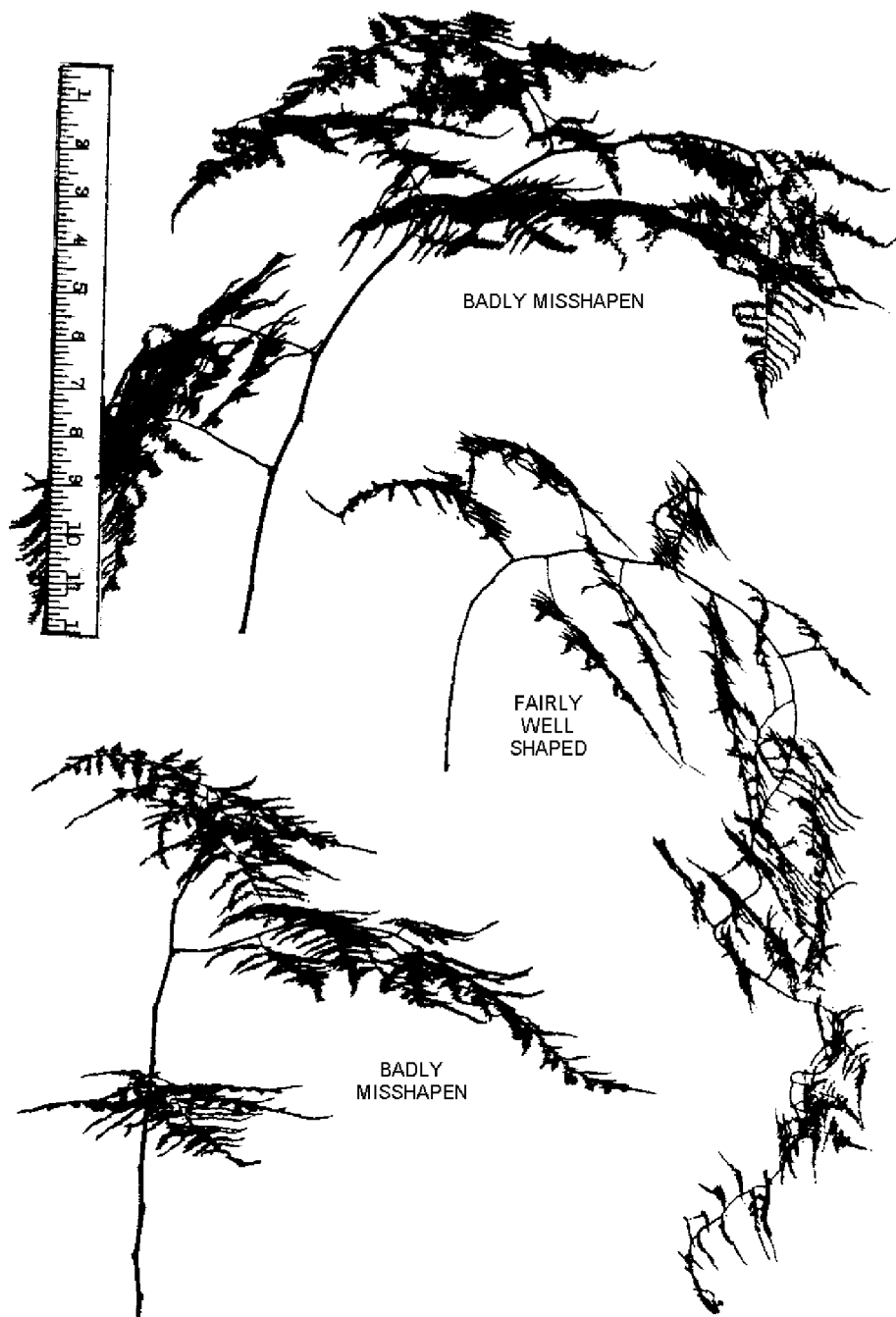


Illustration ASPLUM 1

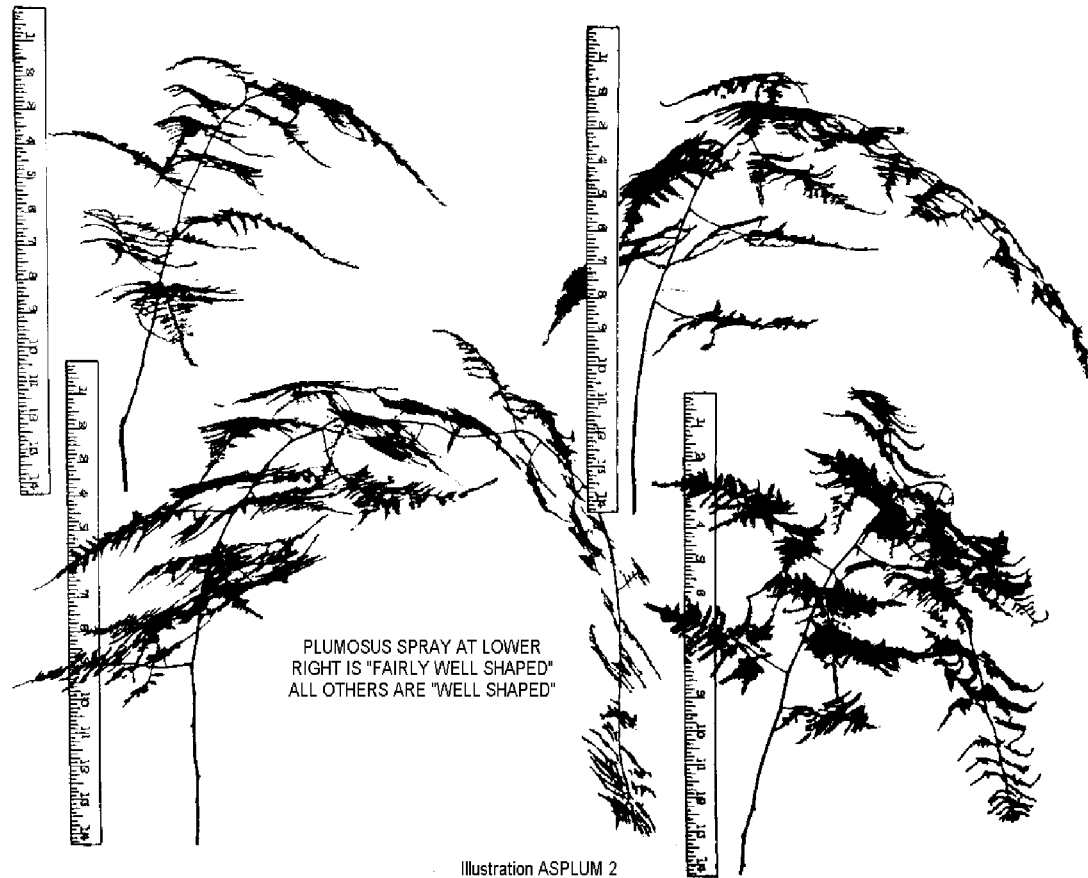


Illustration ASPLUM 2

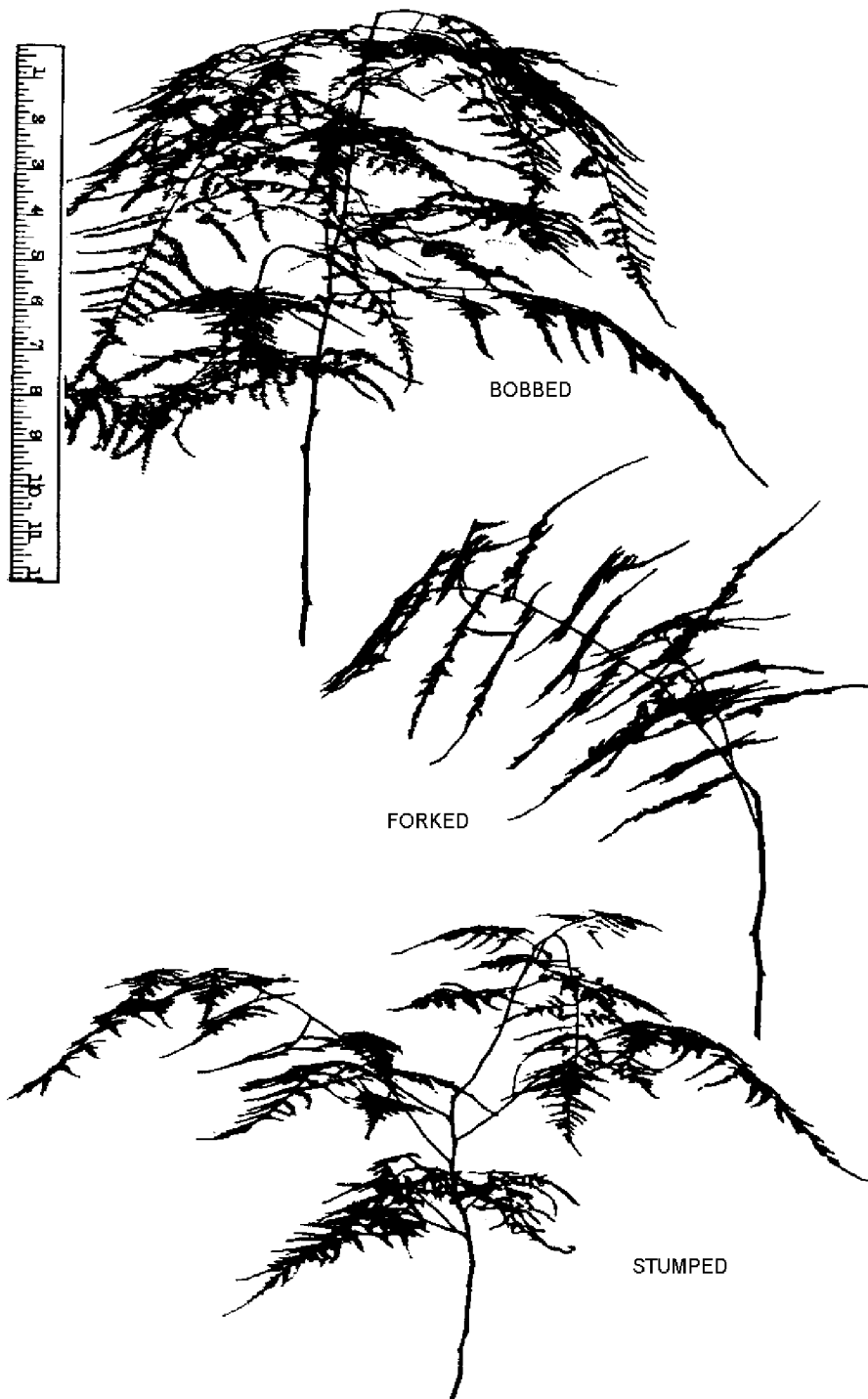


Illustration ASPLUM 3