

TO: Industry Organizations, WSHA Grade & Pack and Board Members

FROM: Scott Smith and Mark Tudor, WSHA Grade and Pack Co-Chairs

RE: Proposal to consolidate apple sizes

At the April WSHA Grade and Pack Committee meeting, the committee discussed the issue of size consolidation of tray packs in standard and euro cartons. The WSHA Grade and Pack Committee approved a motion to seek industry input to gauge support and identify issues related to consolidating sizes.

Though the industry could formulate completely new sizes, the committee would like your input on the following size configuration: 48, 64, 80, 100, 125, and 150.

Consolidating sizes offers the industry a number of benefits.

PACKING EFFICIENCIES: Elimination of some sizes would give efficiencies in sorting, packing and inventory control. These efficiencies could result in lower costs and higher grower returns.

MARKETING ADVANTAGES: Eliminating sizes would allow for a more even flow of product to market. Eliminating gluts of certain sizes could result in higher grower returns.

CUSTOMER ACCEPTANCE: It is highly unlikely that the ultimate customer would notice this change. The size variance within the same pack for most varieties would not exceed ¼ inch diameter.

One concern raised over consolidating sizes is bruising. There is some concern that the pack may not be as tight, resulting in greater bruising of the fruit.

Results - Size Consolidation Experiment

C.M. Holtzinger Fruit Co. experimented with this proposal, using 10 bins of cull reds. They found that the computer directed equipment easily cut sizes to maintain uniform weights. This means the industry won't be giving away weight by implementing this methodology.

EXAMPLE SIZE	Max Gross Weight	Minimum Weight	Diameter Vairiance
100	43.75# (19820 gr)	42.5# (19255gr)	Mainly 1/8 inch
64	40# (18120 gr)	38.8# (17580 gr)	Mainly 1/8 to 1/4 inch
80	42.12# (19080 gr)	39.25 (17800 gr)	Mainly 1/8, few 1/8 & 1/4 inch

More combined sizes trial from C.M. Holtzinger, dated 4/17/01, on page 2.

REQUEST

The WSHA Grade and Pack Committee is seeking industry input into formulating a proposal to consolidate sizes. The committee is considering mandating sizes through the Washington State Department of Agriculture. Mandating sizes eliminates the possibility of retailers forcing companies to pack certain sizes. Again, the size configuration being proposed is as follows: 48, 64, 80, 100, 125 and 150. The WSHA Grade and Pack Committee has proposed implementing this proposal for the 2003 crop (September 1, 2003). However, with strong support, the industry could seek an implementation date earlier than 2003.

The WSHA Grade and Pack Committee will meet on May 30. We would like your input before the meeting.

MORE RESULTS

C.M. Holtzinger Combined Sizes Trial – 4/17/01

These numbers represent the number of Red Delicious apples out of a sample size of 50 that vary less than ¼ inch from the other fruit in the sample.

	<u>Size 48's</u>	<u>Size 64's</u>	<u>Size 80's</u>	<u>Size 100's</u>	<u>Size 125's</u>
	46	49	49	50	49
	48	49	47	50	50
	47	48	50	49	50
	46	49	50	50	50
	48	50	50	47	50
	48	50	49	50	49
	50	49	48	50	49
	49	48	49	49	50
	48	50	49	49	50
	48	49	49	49	50
	47	49	50	50	49
	48	49	48	50	50
	48	47	49	50	50
	49	49	50	48	50
	47	48	49	50	50
	46	49	49	49	50
	49	49	49	49	49
	48	48	50	49	48
	49	50	49	50	50
	48	50	50	49	50
	957	979	983	987	993
% w/in					
1/4 inch:	95.70%	97.90%	98.30%	98.70%	99.30%
StdDev:	1.089	0.826	0.813	0.813	0.587

Testing, measurements, and analysis by Dr. Randy R. Lee.