

11. Flaxseed

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Classes and varieties

Flaxseed

Brown flaxseed applies to varieties with brown seed coats.

Yellow flaxseed applies to varieties with yellow seed coats.

Determination of dockage

Definitions

Dockage is assessed and recorded to the nearest 0.1%.

Dockage is defined under the *Canada Grain Act* as “any material intermixed with a parcel of grain, other than kernels of grain of a standard of quality fixed by or under this Act for a grade of that grain, that must and can be separated from the parcel of grain before that grade can be assigned to the grain”. Dockage is removed by following the cleaning procedure described in this chapter.

The sample as it arrives is referred to as the uncleaned or dirty sample. Its weight is the gross weight of the sample. Dockage is assessed on the gross weight of the sample.

Dockage is assessed in two stages.

1. Follow the **Normal cleaning procedure**, using the Carter dockage tester.
2. Follow the procedure for **Cleaning for grade improvement**. This cleaning can be done at any time after the cleaning assessment has been completed.

Dockage not reported

- ▲ **Important:** Dockage is not reported for
- Flaxseed, Sample CW/CE Account Fireburnt
 - Flaxseed, Sample Salvage
 - Flaxseed, Sample Condemned
 - Unofficial samples declared as processed

Normal cleaning procedure

- ▲ **Important:** Wear gloves and a mask to handle any samples that you suspect may contain hazardous substances.

1. Set up the Carter dockage tester as follows:

Feed control	# 4
Air control	# 3
Riddle	No. 000
Top sieve	Blank tray
Centre sieve	None
Bottom sieve	None
Sieve cleaner control	Off

2. You need the following hand sieves: No. 4.5 round-hole sieve, and one wire sieve, depending on the size of the flaxseed and the nature of the material to be removed.

Round-hole sieves	Wire sieves
No. 4.5	No. 4x14
	No. 3x16

3. Using a Boerner-type divider, divide the uncleaned sample to obtain a representative portion.
- Official samples shall be at least 1 kg.
 - Unofficial samples shall be at least 1 kg.
4. For hand sieving use approximately 250 g per sieving
1. Sieve each portion over the appropriate wire sieve until maximum cleanout has been achieved.
 2. Sieve each portion over the No. 4.5 RH sieve until maximum cleanout has been achieved.
5. Combine the separated 250-g portions.
6. Turn on the Carter dockage tester.
7. Pour the entire working sample into the hopper.
8. After the sample has passed through the machine, turn off the machine.
9. Lightly snap the retainer rod of the aspiration pan to loosen material gathered on the air screen.
10. Using a Boerner-type divider, divide not less than 20 g from the cleaned working sample.
11. From the 20-g portion, determine the percentage by weight of inseparable material.
12. Determine dockage, using the list under **Composition of dockage**.

Composition of dockage

Dockage includes

- Material remaining on top of the wire sieve
- Material that passes through the No. 4.5 round-hole sieve
- Material removed by aspiration
- Material that passes over the No. 000 riddle
- Soft earth pellets (SEP) handpicked from the cleaned sample
- Inseparable material up to established grade tolerances handpicked from the clean sample
- Material removed by **Cleaning for grade improvement**

Primary elevator samples, commercially clean

Samples exiting primary elevators are commercially clean when the net dockage does not exceed 2.5% of the sample weight. Commercially clean samples exiting primary elevators can have up to 0.5% for broken and reasonably sound flaxseed deducted from the gross weight of the dockage. There is no deduction applicable to producer deliveries or submitted samples.

Primary elevator samples, not commercially clean

In not commercially clean samples exiting primary elevators there is no allowance for broken and reasonably sound flaxseed.

Sample grades

In sample grades, inseparable admixture is not added to dockage. Where the inseparable material exceeds 2.0% of the sample by weight, the admixture becomes a reason for the sample grade and is recorded in remarks.

Rejected account stones

In samples that grade 'Rejected (basic grade) Account Stones', dockage includes inseparable material handpicked from the clean sample up to the tolerance.

Cleaning for grade improvement

If the grade of a sample can be improved by additional cleaning, perform the cleaning and add the additional material to dockage. Cleaning for grade improvement can be done at any time after the cleaning assessment has been completed, including on export.

1. After the cleaning assessment has been completed, examine the material to be removed and select your equipment according to the material you want to remove. See the table **Cleaning for grade improvement—Flaxseed** for the list of equipment.
2. Sieve the material by hand or pass it through the Carter dockage tester, depending on the material.
 - ▲ **Important:** When using a hand sieve, move the sieve from left to right 30 times, in a steady motion. One complete motion is approximately 10 cm from the center to one side, back to the center, approximately 10 cm to the other side and back to the center.
3. Weigh the additional dockage and add it to the original dockage.

Cleaning for grade improvement—Flaxseed

Material to be removed	Equipment	Effect on composition of dockage
Inseparable material	No. 5 round-hole hand sieve	The material passing through the sieve is included in the dockage. Not more than 5.0% of sound flaxseed may be removed for each single grade improvement achieved.
Lightweight material	Carter dockage tester, with feed control at #4 and air control at #4.5 Note: The material originally removed by aspiration is to be reconstituted back into the sample prior to cleaning for improvement.	The material removed, including damaged seed, is included in the dockage. Not more than 5.0% of sound flaxseed may be removed from the cleaned sample for each single grade improvement achieved.

Optional analysis

Where a shipper requests special cleaning of a carlot of grain at a terminal elevator, and the elevator manager agrees, dockage material will be analyzed for the presence of grain. The percentage and grade of any grain contained in the dockage will be reported.

Procedure

1. Analyze the official sample.
2. Record the following on inspection records:
 - The percentage by gross weight to the nearest 0.1% and the grade of flaxseed.
 - The percentage by gross weight to the nearest 0.1% and the grade of grain separable from dockage.
 - The percentage of dockage.

Example:

95.0% Flaxseed, No. 1 Canada Western

4.0% Barley No. 1 Canada Western

1.0% dockage

Grading

Important definitions

Net weight of sample

The sample after cleaning and removal of dockage is referred to as the cleaned sample. Its weight is the net weight of the sample. Percentages by weight for grading refer to percentages of the cleaned sample, the net weight.

Hazardous substances in samples

Wear gloves and a mask to handle any samples that you suspect may contain hazardous substances. Hazardous substances are defined in section 1 of the *Canada Grain Regulations* as “any pesticide, desiccant or inoculant”.

Rounding rules

Rounding rules are outlined in [schedule 3 of the Canada Grain Regulations](#). When official inspection results are expressed numerically, they should be expressed to the same decimal precision as the applicable tolerance in the primary and export grade determination table.

Processed sample

An unofficial sample of grain declared to be conditioned or cleaned to meet end user specifications, and whereas, the determination of dockage and/or determination of commercially clean are not performed or reported.

Non-registered varieties

A registered variety refers to varieties of crops that have been granted variety registration in Canada. Species, kinds or types of crops subject to variety registration in Canada are listed in Schedule III of the *Seeds Regulations*. Not all crops are subject to registration. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for the registration of varieties in Canada. Consult the CFIA’s [database of varieties registered in Canada](#) online to determine if a given variety is registered in Canada.

Where grain of any kind is not a registered variety under the *Seeds Act*, no person shall, except with the permission of the Canadian Grain Commission, assign a statutory grade to that grain which is higher than the lowest grade established by regulation for that kind of grain.

Representative portion for grading

All grading is done on representative portions divided down from the clean sample, using a Boerner-type divider.

The optimum representative portion is the representative sample size within the minimum and maximum range used to obtain the most accurate result when assessing an objective factor. It is determined by taking into consideration the tolerance and concentration of the objective factor being assessed.

Representative portion of flaxseed for grading (in grams)

Grading factor	Sample portion size range	
	Minimum	Maximum
Broken	15 g	50 g
Damage (visual)	10 g	50 g
Damage (crush)	10 g	100 g
Ergot	500 g	working sample
Excreta	working sample	working sample
Fertilizer pellets	working sample	working sample
Fireburnt	working sample	working sample
Heated	10 g	100 g
Inseparable seeds	5 g	50 g
Odour	working sample	working sample
Other classes	15 g	50 g
Sclerotinia sclerotiorum	500 g	working sample
Soft earth pellets	working sample	working sample
Stones	working sample	working sample
Treated seed	working sample	working sample

Grading factors

Broken (BKN)

Broken seeds are pieces of flaxseed that are less than three-quarters the size of a whole seed.

▲ **Important:**

- Flaxseed has a separate tolerance for broken.
 - Broken seeds of flaxseed are also included in total damage (TDMG).
-

Contaminated grain (CONTAM GRN)

▲ **Important:** Wear gloves and a mask to handle any sample that is suspected of containing contaminated grain.

Grain is contaminated for the purposes of the *Canada Grain Act* if the grain contains any substance in sufficient quantity that the grain is either

- (a) adulterated for the purposes of the *Food and Drugs Act*; or
- (b) contaminated within the meaning of the regulations made under section 51 of the *Safe Foods for Canadians Act*.

Treated seed

Treated seed is grain that has been adulterated with an agricultural chemical for agronomic purposes. The types of agricultural chemicals used to treat seed include pesticides, fungicides and inoculants. These seed dressings contain a dye to render the treated seed visually conspicuous. The colour of the dye varies depending upon the type of treatment and the type of grain. The current Canadian colour standard for pesticide and fungicide seed treatments for cereal (including corn) is red or pink. The colour standard for pesticide and fungicide seed treatments for canola is blue; however, green has also been used. Pulse crop (including soybeans) pesticide and fungicide seed treatments are typically blue or green. The coatings or stains may appear greasy or powdery and the surface area covered may range from tiny flecks to complete coverage.

Other chemical substances

Other chemical substances refers to any chemical residues either adhering to the kernel or remaining in the sample and to samples having a chemical odour of any kind.

Extraneous material

Can be defined as glass, metal, wood (including wood pellets), plastic or any other material not already defined in the Official Grain Grading Guide.

Procedure

If a sample is suspected of being coated with a pesticide, desiccant, inoculant or if the sample contains evidence of extraneous material, including any foreign chemical substance other than fertilizer pellets (FERT PLTS), the sample shall be graded 'Flaxseed, Held IP Suspect Contaminated Grain' and submitted to the Canadian Grain Commission. Determination as to whether grain is contaminated will be made by the Grain Research Laboratory in consultation with the Chief Grain Inspector for Canada. Samples deemed to be contaminated are graded 'Flaxseed, Sample Condemned'.

Damage (DMG)

Damage includes

- Seeds that are heated (HTD), broken (BKN), frosted, green, sprouted, shriveled or otherwise damaged
- Seeds with fractured seed coats

▲ **Important:** Seeds are not considered damaged if they

- Have any side portions of the boll membrane attached but are otherwise sound
- Appear scabbed or blistered but are otherwise sound

Procedure

1. Divide the sample to the appropriate representative portion.
 2. Handpick the representative portion for visually damaged seeds and suspect damaged seeds.
 3. Determine the percentage concentration by weight for the visually damaged seeds.
 4. The suspect damaged seeds are cut or are placed on a strip of masking tape and crushed with a seed roller to expose the cotyledons. The number of damaged seeds is converted to a weight percentage by weighing an equal number of sound seeds and dividing the weight of the sound seeds by the weight of the representative portion. If any heated seeds are detected or if the sample has a heated odour, refer to the procedure for assessment of heated (HTD).
 5. Add the two percentages of damage together to determine the total damage.
-

Earth pellets (EP)

- Hard earth pellets are pellets that do not crumble under light pressure.
See **Stones (STNS)**.
 - Soft earth pellets are pellets that crumble under light pressure.
See **Soft earth pellets (SEP)**.
-

Ergot (ERG)

Ergot is a plant disease producing elongated fungus bodies with a purplish-black exterior, a purplish-white to off-white interior, and a relatively smooth surface texture.

Excreta (EXCR)

Excrement from any animal including mammals, birds and insects.

▲ **Important:** Wear gloves and a mask to handle any samples that you suspect may contain excreta.

Extraneous material

See **Contaminated grain (CONTAM GRN)**.

Fertilizer pellets (FERT PLTS)

Fertilizer pellets are a manufactured plant nutrient product used by producers in the production of grain. They are typically small, round or irregular shaped and usually white, grey, brown, pink or reddish in colour.

Procedure

- Handpick any fertilizer pellets and determine the concentration in the net working sample.
- Fertilizer pellets are assessed as stones (STNS) when the concentration does not exceed 1.0% of the net sample weight.
- Samples containing fertilizer pellets in excess of 1.0% of the net sample weight are graded 'Flaxseed, Held IP Suspect Contaminated Grain'. The sample should be submitted to the Canadian Grain Commission. Determination as to whether grain is contaminated will be made by the Grain Research Laboratory in consultation with the Chief Grain Inspector for Canada. Samples deemed to be contaminated are graded 'Flaxseed, Sample Condemned'.

Fireburnt (FBNT)

Samples that show any evidence of being charred or scorched by fire are considered fireburnt. Evidence includes odour, pieces of charred wood, and so on. Fireburnt seeds pop when crushed.

Procedure

Samples considered fireburnt are graded 'Flaxseed, Sample CW/CE, Account Fireburnt'.

Heated (HTD)

Heated refers to seeds with discoloured cotyledons ranging in colour from orange to dark brown depending on the severity of heat damage. The seed coats of heated seeds are usually shiny brown or black. Severely heated seeds usually have a heated odour.

Procedure

1. The cleaned sample is divided to a representative portion, depending on the concentration of heated in the sample.
2. Those seeds having shiny brown to black seed coats are separated by hand as potential heated seeds.
3. The potentially heated seeds are cut or are placed on a strip of masking tape and crushed with a seed roller to expose the cotyledons.
4. Seeds having discoloured cotyledons ranging in colour from orange to dark brown are counted to determine the percentage of heated seeds.
5. When crushing samples, the number of heated seeds is converted to a weight percentage by weighing an equal number of sound seeds and dividing the weight of the sound seeds by the weight of the representative portion.
6. Heated seeds of other grains are included in the tolerance for heated.

Inseparable seeds (INSEP SDS)

Inseparable seeds are domestic seeds such as mustard seed, canola, whole shrunken or broken kernels of other grains and weed seeds such as wild oats and lady's thumb that remain in the sample after cleaning.

Odour (ODOR)

There is no numeric tolerance for odour. Consider

- The basic quality of the sample
- The type and degree of the odour
- The presence of visible residue causing the odour

If odour is the grade determinant and there is . . .	Then the grade is . . .
A distinct objectionable odour not associated with the quality of the grain, but not heated or fireburnt	Flaxseed, Sample CW/CE Account Odour
A distinct heated odour	Flaxseed, Sample CW/CE Account Heated
A distinct fireburnt odour	Flaxseed, Sample CW/CE Account Fireburnt

Other classes of flaxseed (OCL)

- In brown flaxseed, other classes of flaxseed refers to classes with yellow seed coats.
- In yellow flaxseed, other classes of flaxseed refers to classes with brown seed coats.

Sclerotinia sclerotiorum (SCL)

Sclerotinia sclerotiorum is a fungus producing hard masses of fungal tissue, called sclerotia. The sclerotia vary in size and shape, have a coarse surface texture, vary in exterior color from dark black to gray to white and have a pure white interior.

Soft earth pellets (SEP)

Soft earth pellets are

- Earth pellets that crumble into fine dust under light pressure, using a finger only—if they do not crumble, they are considered stones (STNS)
- Any non-toxic material of similar consistency

Procedure

1. Handpick soft earth pellets from a representative portion of the cleaned sample.
2. Soft earth pellets are removed as dockage. See **Composition of dockage**.

Stones (STNS)

Stones are hard shale, coal, hard earth pellets, and any other nontoxic materials of similar consistency. Fertilizer pellets are assessed as stones when constituting 1.0% or less of the net sample weight. See **Fertilizer pellets (FERT PLTS)** for the specific procedure to be followed when samples contain fertilizer pellets.

Procedure

1. Handpick stones from a representative portion of the cleaned sample.
 2. Determine stone concentration in the net sample.
- Samples of grain grown in western Canada containing stones in excess of basic grade tolerances, up to 2.5% are graded 'Flaxseed, Rejected (basic grade) Account Stones'. The 'basic grade' refers to a grade established in the *Canada Grain Regulations* (grades listed in the first column in grade determination tables) that would have been assigned to the sample if it contained no stones.
 - Samples of grain grown in eastern Canada containing stones in excess of grade tolerances are degraded to lower grades. Samples containing stones in excess of the tolerance of the lowest grade established by regulation up to 2.5% are graded 'Flaxseed, Sample Canada Eastern Account Stones'.
 - Samples of western and eastern Canadian grain containing more than 2.5% stones are graded 'Flaxseed, Sample Salvage'.

Examples: Western Canada

Primary grade determination table
Flaxseed, CW

Grade name	Stones %
No. 1 CW	0.05
No. 2 CW	0.05
No. 3 CW	0.05

Basic grade:..... Flaxseed, No. 1 CW

If the above sample contained	Grade in Western Canada
0.08% stones	Flaxseed, Rejected No. 1 CW Account Stones
3.0% stones	Flaxseed, Sample Salvage

Example: Eastern Canada

Primary grade determination table
Flaxseed CE

Grade name	Stones %
No. 1 CE	0.05
No. 2 CE	0.05
No. 3 CE	0.05

Basic grade:..... Flaxseed, No. 1 CE

If the above sample contained	Grade in Eastern Canada
0.08% stones	Flaxseed, Sample CE Account Stones
3.0% stones	Flaxseed, Sample Salvage

Test weight (TWT)

Test weight is the weight of a known volume of grain expressed in kilograms per hectolitre. For procedures, see Chapter 1 of this guide, **Test weight**.

Treated seed and other chemical substances

See **Contaminated grain (CONTAM GRN)**.

Variety (VAR)

Only varieties registered in Canada under the *Seeds Act* are eligible for the top grades of flaxseed.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for the registration of varieties in Canada. Consult the CFIA's [database of varieties registered in Canada](#) online to determine if a given variety is registered in Canada.

Primary and export grade determination table

Flaxseed, Canada Western (CW), standard of quality

Grading factor	No. 1 CW	No. 2 CW	No. 3 CW	Grade, if No. 3 specs not met
Degree of soundness	Mature and sweet	Reasonably well matured and sweet	Excluded from higher grades on account of light weight or damaged seeds, may have the natural odour associated with low-quality seed, not distinctly sour, musty, rancid or any odour that would indicate serious deterioration	
Minimum test weight kg/hL (g/0.5 L)	65 (305)	62 (290)	No minimum	
Variety	Any variety of flaxseed registered under the <i>Seeds Act</i>	Any variety of flaxseed registered under the <i>Seeds Act</i>	Any variety of flaxseed	
Standard of Cleanliness Commercially pure seed	Not more than 1.0% of other seeds that are not readily separable from flaxseed, to be assessed as dockage	Not more than 1.5% of other seeds that are not readily separable from flaxseed, to be assessed as dockage	Not more than 2.0% of other seeds that are not readily separable from flaxseed, to be assessed as dockage	Flaxseed, Sample CW Account Admixture
Yellow seeded flax % (in brown flax)	2	3	4	50% or less - Flaxseed, Sample CW Account Admixture
Brown seeded flax % (in yellow flax)	2	2	2	50% or less - Flaxseed, Sample CW Account Admixture

Flaxseed, Canada Western (CW), damage

Grading factor	No. 1 CW	No. 2 CW	No. 3 CW	Grade, if No. 3 specs not met
Broken %	13	25	35	50% or less - Flaxseed, Sample CW Account Broken Over 50% - Sample Broken Grain
Heated %	0.1	0.2	10.0	Flaxseed, Sample CW Account Heated
Total % Damage	13	25	No limit	

Flaxseed, Canada Western (CW), foreign material included in dockage

Grading factor	No. 1 CW	No. 2 CW	No. 3 CW	Grade, if No. 3 specs not met
Ergot %	0.05	0.05	0.05	Flaxseed, Sample CW Account Ergot
Excreta %	0.02	0.02	0.02	Flaxseed, Sample CW Account Excreta
Sclerotinia %	0.10	0.20	0.25	Flaxseed, Sample CW Account Admixture
Stones %	0.05	0.05	0.05	2.5% or less - Flaxseed, Rejected (grade) Account Stones Over 2.5% - Flaxseed, Sample Salvage
Inseparable seeds %	1.0	1.5	2.0	Flaxseed, Sample CW Account Admixture
Total % Foreign material included in dockage	1.0	1.5	2.0	Flaxseed, Sample CW Account Admixture

Flaxseed, Canada Eastern (CE), standard of quality

Grading factor	No. 1 CE	No. 2 CE	No. 3 CE	Grade, if No. 3 specs not met
Degree of soundness	Mature and sweet	Reasonably well matured and sweet	Excluded from higher grades on account of light weight or damaged seeds, may have the natural odour associated with low-quality seed, not distinctly sour, musty, rancid or any odour that would indicate serious deterioration	
Minimum test weight kg/hL (g/0.5 L)	65 (305)	62 (290)	No minimum	
Variety	Any variety of flaxseed registered under the <i>Seeds Act</i>	Any variety of flaxseed registered under the <i>Seeds Act</i>	Any variety of flaxseed	
Standard of Cleanliness Commercially pure seed	Not more than 1.0% of other seeds that are not readily separable from flaxseed, to be assessed as dockage	Not more than 1.5% of other seeds that are not readily separable from flaxseed, to be assessed as dockage	Not more than 2.0% of other seeds that are not readily separable from flaxseed, to be assessed as dockage	Flaxseed, Sample CE Account Admixture
Yellow seeded flax % (in brown flax)	2	3	4	50% or less - Flaxseed, Sample CE Account Admixture
Brown seeded flax % (in yellow flax)	2	2	2	50% or less - Flaxseed, Sample CE Account Admixture

Flaxseed, Canada Eastern (CE), damage

Grading factor	No. 1 CE	No. 2 CE	No. 3 CE	Grade, if No. 3 specs not met
Broken %	13	25	35	50% or less - Flaxseed, Sample CE Account Broken Over 50% - Sample Broken Grain
Heated %	0.1	0.2	10.0	Flaxseed, Sample CE Account Heated
Total % Damage	13	25	No limit	

Flaxseed, Canada Eastern (CE), foreign material included in dockage

Grading factor	No. 1 CE	No. 2 CE	No. 3 CE	Grade, if No. 3 specs not met
Ergot %	0.05	0.05	0.05	Flaxseed, Sample CE Account Ergot
Excreta %	0.02	0.02	0.02	Flaxseed, Sample CE Account Excreta
Sclerotinia %	0.10	0.20	0.25	Flaxseed, Sample CE Account Admixture
Stones %	0.05	0.05	0.05	2.5% or less - Flaxseed, Sample CE Account Stones Over 2.5% - Flaxseed, Sample Salvage
Inseparable seeds %	1.0	1.5	2.0	Flaxseed, Sample CE Account Admixture
Total % Foreign material included in dockage	1.0	1.5	2.0	Flaxseed, Sample CE Account Admixture

Export shipments

Export shipments can be commercially clean or not commercially clean.

Commercially clean (CCLN)

Export shipments are defined as commercially clean when the net dockage does not exceed 2.5% of the sample weight.

Dockage is reported to the nearest 0.1%.

A deduction for broken and reasonably sound flaxseed removed as dockage is allowed

- On shipments from a terminal elevator, not for direct export, of up to 0.5%
- On shipments for direct export, of up to 0.8%

Not commercially clean (NCC)

Export shipments that do not meet the standards for commercial cleanliness are referred to as not commercially clean. Such shipments are allowed only with the permission of the Canadian Grain Commission.

For samples representing not commercially clean shipments approved by the Canadian Grain Commission for shipment from terminal elevators, dockage is reported to the nearest 0.1%.

Instead of the allowances for broken seed in commercially clean shipments, a direct deduction of up to 0.2% is applied to establish net dockage for direct exports only.

Determination of dockage

Follow the procedure for normal cleaning, with the Carter dockage tester set up as follows.

Feed control	#4
Air control	#3
Riddle	No. 000
Top sieve	Blank tray
Centre sieve	None
Bottom sieve	None
Sieve cleaner	Off

You will also need the following hand sieves.

Round-hole sieves	Wire sieves
No. 4.5	No. 4x14 No. 3x16

Composition of dockage

In export grade flaxseed, dockage consists of

- Material that remains on top of the wire sieve
- Material that passes through the No. 4.5 round-hole hand sieve, less the applicable allowance of broken and reasonably sound flaxseed
- Material removed by aspiration
- Material that passes over the No. 000 riddle
- Inseparable material up to established grade tolerances, handpicked from the cleaned sample
- Material removed by **Cleaning for grade improvement**

Grading

Flaxseed on export is graded in accordance with primary and export grade determination tables.

