

- Small-scale farmer marketing series •

English

Classes and grading requirements of onions



agriculture
Department
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Horticultural produce are graded into three classes:

- Class 1
- Class 2
- Class 3

Minimum requirements for classification of fresh produce

- Free from musty odour
- Free from chemical contaminants and other harmful objects
- Free from plant injurious organisms of phytosanitary importance
- Free from any organisms dangerous to human health
- Free from arthropoda
- Free from bacterial and fungus growth

Grading and classification of onions

Onions are graded into two classes (Class 1, Class 2) and subdivided into five categories.

Classes of onions

Quality factors	Class 1	Class 2
Appearance	Dry clean, firm clean and well developed	Dry clean, firm clean and well developed
Roots	No roots longer than 20 mm Light greening on not more than 50% of the total bulb is permissible	No roots longer than 30 mm Light and dark greening not deeper than two fleshy bracts are permissible
Tops	Shall be cut or clipped off and may not be longer than 60 mm	Shall be cut or clipped off and may not be longer than 60 mm
Foreign matter; Double bulbs; Decay; Heat / cold damage; Onions of another colour	Not permissible	Not permissible



Categories of onions

Accepted onion sizes:

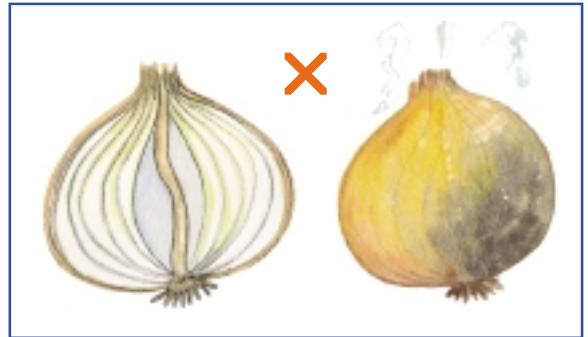
Category	Size
Extra Large	Over 90 mm
Large	70-90 mm
Medium	40-70 mm
Small	35-50 mm
Prickle	10 -35 mm



Minimum requirements

Onion should be

- Free from any plant injurious organisms of phytosanitary importance
- Clean, free from any visible foreign matter
- Free from damage caused by frost
- Sufficiently dry for the intended use (in the case of onions for storing, at least the two first outer skins and the stem must be fully dried)
- Without hollow or tough stems
- Practically free from damage caused by pests
- Free of all abnormal external moisture
- Free from foreign odour and taste



For Further information

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Acknowledgements

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Fresh Produce Forum

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