

Maple Inspection Results (Dec. 2022 to May 2023)

Food Safety & Consumer Protection Division
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Summary

Food Safety and Consumer Protection (FSCP) Division staff conducted 19 maple product inspections at retail locations between December 2022 and May 2023. See Table 1.

FSCP staff reviewed product labels and sampled maple syrup to ensure compliance with Vermont grade standards for quality, food safety, and labeling. A total of 46 maple syrup products were graded from 29 different producers and distributors. 9 regulatory letters were issued for noncompliance issues found.

30 of the 46 maple syrup samples, or 65%, were found to be overall in compliance. This is a slight increase from last year when 59% were found in compliance. Note, a product that was missing a batch code was considered in compliance as long as it had no other noncompliance issues.

Color was the most common reason for syrup found out of compliance. 14 of the 16 maple syrup products found out of compliance were too dark for grade (3 of the 14 had other noncompliance issues in addition to color).

Maple syrup that was too dark for grade was more common among Golden/Delicate and Amber/Rich grades, and among plastic containers across all grades and container types.

Other notable issues found:

- Off-flavors: sour (1) and ferment (1)
- Density: high (2), low (1)
- Labeling: no batch code (9), no grade designation (3), mislabeled artificial maple flavored product (1)

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Table 1 – Maple Syrup Sampling Results (12/22 to 5/23)

Producer/ Distributor	VT Maple Syrup (Y/N)	Container Type	Organic (Y/N)	Grade	Color	Flavor	Clarity	Density	Labeling	Pass/Fail	Notes
A	Y	Plastic	N	GD	X			X	X	F	no batch code; density low
B	N	Glass	N	AR						P	
B	N	Plastic	N	DR						P	
C	Y	Plastic	N	AR	X					F	
D	Y	Glass	Y	AR						P	
E	Y	Plastic	N	AR					X	P	no batch code
F	N	Glass	N	DR						P	
G	Y	Plastic	N	AR	X					F	
H	Y	Plastic	N	AR						P	
I	Y	Glass	Y	AR						P	
J	Y	Plastic	N	GD	X	X		X	X	F	no batch code; density high
J	Y	Plastic	N	AR					X	P	no batch code
K	Y	Bulk display	N	AR	X				X	F	no grade designation
K	Y	Bulk display	N	DR					X	P	no grade designation
L	Y	Plastic	N	GD	X					F	
L	Y	Plastic	N	AR						P	
L	Y	Plastic	N	DR						P	
L	Y	Plastic	N	VDS						P	
M	Y	Plastic	N	AR	X					F	
N	Y	Glass	N	AR					X	P	no batch code
O	Y	Bulk display	N	DR					X	P	no grade designation
P	Y	Glass	Y	AR						P	
Q	Y	Glass	Y	AR						P	
R	Y	Plastic	Y	DR						P	
S	Y	Bulk display	Y	AR	X					F	not refrigerated
S	Y	Bulk display	Y	DR		X	X			F	fermented; not refrigerated
T	Y	Plastic	N	GD	X					F	

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Continued from previous page

Producer/ Distributor	VT Maple Syrup (Y/N)	Container Type	Organic (Y/N)	Grade	Color	Flavor	Clarity	Density	Labeling	Pass/Fail	Notes
T	Y	Plastic	N	AR						P	
T	Y	Plastic	N	DR				X		F	density high
T	Y	Plastic	N	VDS						P	
U	Y	Metal	N	AR	X	X				F	sour off-flavor
H	Y	Plastic	N	AR						P	
V	Y	Plastic, squeeze type	N	DR	X					F	
W	Y	Plastic	Y	AR						P	
X	N	Glass	N	DR						P	
Y	Y	Bulk display	Y	AR						P	
Y	Y	Bulk display	Y	DR						P	
Z	Y	Plastic	N	AR	X					F	
Z	Y	Plastic, squeeze type	N	DR	X					F	
AA	Y	Plastic	N	GD	X				X	F	no batch code
AA	Y	Plastic	N	AR					X	P	no batch code
AA	Y	Plastic	N	DR					X	P	no batch code
AA	Y	Plastic	N	VDS					X	P	no batch code
BB	N	Glass	N	DR						P	
X	N	Glass	N	DR						P	
CC	Y	Plastic	N	DR						P	

GD: Golden / Delicate
 AR: Amber / Rich
 DR: Dark / Robust
 VDS: Very Dark / Strong