

Maple Inspection Results (Dec. 2022 to Dec. 2023)

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

Summary

Food Safety and Consumer Protection (FSCP) Division staff conducted 21 maple product inspections at retail locations between December 2022 and December 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 47 maple syrup products were graded from 30 different producers and distributors. 11 regulatory letters were issued for noncompliance issues found.

30 of the 47 maple syrup samples, or 64%, 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 17 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)
- Clarify: poorly filtered (1)
- Density: high (2), low (1)
- Labeling: no batch code (9), no grade designation (3), mislabeled artificial maple flavored product (2 – see below), and no packer name and address (1)

Mislabeled artificial maple flavored products:



Both products are labeled as “maple flavored” but do not contain real maple syrup or maple sugar as an ingredient.

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

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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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	
DD	Y	Plastic	N	AR					X	F	no packer name and address
EE	N	Glass	N	AR			X			F	poorly filtered

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