

Maple Inspection Results (Jan. 2024 to May 2024)

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

Summary

Food Safety and Consumer Protection (FSCP) Division staff conducted 12 maple product inspections at retail locations between January 2024 and May 2024. See Table 1. Note, this summary will be updated again in January 2025, to include data from the full calendar year.

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 30 maple syrup products were graded from 23 different producers and distributors. 5 regulatory letters were issued for noncompliance issues found.

22 of the 30 maple syrup samples, or 73%, were found to be overall in compliance. This is an increase from last year when 65% 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. 4 of the 8 maple syrup products found out of compliance were too dark for grade.

Other notable issues found:

- Off-flavors: Musty (1) and buddy (1)
- Clarity: poorly filtered (1)
- Density: low (2)
- Labeling: no batch code (5) and no grade designation (2)

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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	Glass	N	AR						P	
B	N	Glass	N	AR						P	
C	N	Glass	Y	AR						P	
C	N	Glass	N	AR						P	
D	Y	Glass	N	DR						P	
E	N	Glass	N	DR						P	
F	Y	Plastic	Y	AR						P	
A	Y	Glass	N	AR						P	
G	N	Plastic, squeeze-type	N	DR	X	X				F	Too dark, flavor too strong
H	Y	Glass	Y		X		X		X	F	Too dark, poorly filtered, no grade or batch code
I	Y	Glass	Y	AR						P	
J	Y	Plastic	N	AR	X					F	Too dark
K	Y	Glass	Y	AR					X	P	No batch code
L	Y	Bulk self-serve	Y	AR						P	
L	Y	Bulk self-serve	Y	DR						P	
M	Y	Plastic	N	AR					X	P	No batch code
N	N	Glass	Y	AR						P	
O	Y	Glass	Y	AR						P	
P	Y	Plastic	Y	GD						P	
P	Y	Plastic	Y	AR						P	
Q	Y	Glass	N	AR						P	
R	N	Glass	Y	AR		X		X	X	F	Musty off-flavor, low density, no batch code
R	N	Plastic, squeeze-type	Y	AR		X		X	X	F	Musty off-flavor, low density, no batch code
S	N	Glass	N	AR						P	
B	N	Glass	N	AR						P	
T	N	Glass	N	AR						P	

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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
U	N	Plastic	N	DR	X	X				F	Buddy, too strong
V	Y	Plastic	Y	AR	X					F	Too dark
V	Y	Plastic	Y	DR						P	
W	Y	Bulk self-serve	N						X	F	No grade designation

GD: Golden / Delicate

AR: Amber / Rich

DR: Dark / Robust

VDS: Very Dark / Strong