

## Specialty Crops Program



## Specialty Crops Inspection (SCI) Division

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crops Inspection (SCI) Division supports the global specialty crops market by collaborating with the agricultural community to provide trusted, impartial, prompt and accurate quality assurance and food safety verification services. Our work builds markets for U.S. producers, and promotes the efficient, fair marketing of America's fresh, frozen and processed fruits, vegetables and other specialty crops.

SCI's team of expert graders, auditors, agricultural marketing specialists, managers and administrative professionals work together to provide:

- Grading, inspection and certification services that certify a product's class, quality, quantity and condition upon production, shipping or receipt in interstate commerce.
- Audit-based food safety and quality assurance services that verify that fruits and vegetables are produced, packed, handled and stored to minimize microbial food safety hazards and risks so growers and suppliers can meet buyers' requirements and increase market access.
- U.S. grade standards and Commercial Item Descriptions that provide a common language for domestic and worldwide commodity trade and use.
- Training programs for specialty crops professionals.

### We also:

- Inspect specialty crops for School Lunch and Federal feeding programs,
- Inspect military operational rations,
- Certify exports for foreign buyer acceptance and inspect imports for quality,
- Certify products meet Marketing Orders, and
- Manage USDA's Child Nutrition Labeling Program.

**Contact Us:** [www.ams.usda.gov/services/sci-contacts](http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/sci-contacts)

### Introduction Video



### Vídeo de Introducción

