

# Fruit Quality

## Is my fruit good enough to donate?

We greatly appreciate your donation of fresh fruit that we then share with local food shelves. Because we can only accept high quality fruit, we want to give you insights to improving the health of individual trees that will help with yield and quality.

Poorer quality fruit, or “seconds,” are useful foods that do not go to waste; however, they are reserved for organizations that have the capacity to cook, process, or preserve food before they are distributed to those in need.

Glean Milwaukee cannot accept fruit that is in poor quality or fruit that has even fallen on the ground. These fruits have a lower shelf life and are less desirable to local food shelves and their participating families.

Please use the following guidelines to estimate the quality of your fruit:

1. **Minimal spots or blemishes. No worms.** Is this fruit you would eat? If so, this qualifies as a “fresh eating fruit.”
2. **Minor surface blemishes that do not affect the flesh of the fruit.** This qualifies as “fresh eating fruit” or “second” depending on severity of surface blemishes.
3. **Blemishes that affect the flesh of the fruit cause the fruit to have a mealy texture.** This fruit cannot be donated.
4. **Wormy fruit?** If so, depending on severity, this fruit is either a “second” which can be utilized, or if too severe, cannot be donated.

These guidelines apply primarily to apples. However, similar guidelines can apply to all fruits.



These apples have apple scab, which affects the skin of the fruit. Apples with light scab are considered “seconds” and can still be donated.

*(Photo by T. Sutton, courtesy University of Minnesota Extension)*



This apple has apple maggot which damages the flesh of the fruit. Apples with apple maggot cannot be donated.

*(Photos by Dept. of Entomology, University of Minnesota, courtesy University of Minnesota Extension)*