
Crop Grouping: An Efficient Path to the Development of Production Tools

The number of types of minor crops grown has greatly expanded. Think about how the specialty produce section of supermarkets has expanded over the last few years. The sheer number of crops and the ultra minor acreages dictate that there should be a more efficient way to be able to achieve the needs of minor crop producers and food safety.

In order to make the efforts of residue data more valuable, IR-4 has also been involved in the development of crop groups and commodity definitions. The federal crop grouping regulations (40 CFR 180.41) enable the establishment of residue tolerances for a group of crops based on residue data for certain key crops, normally major crops, that are representative of the group. Subgroups are smaller and more closely related groupings of the commodities included in the “parent” crop group. The representative commodities for each subgroup are also a smaller subset of those for the parent group. The commodity definitions (40CFR180.1h) clarify the tolerance rules by identifying all the commodities that are covered by a pesticide tolerance. They are similar to crop groups and subgroups in that residue data developed for tolerances on one crop is used to support tolerances for related crops. Tolerances established for a general category of crops (listed in column A of 40 CFR 180.1h) also apply to the related specific commodities (listed in column B of 40 CFR 180.1h). In other words, the research and establishment of a safe tolerance level on the representative crops result in a greater number of tolerances and subsequently, production tools for a greater number of minor crops. The last crop grouping changes were published in the Federal Register in 1995. The following is an outline of some of the newer crop groups, changes in crop groupings, and commodity definitions since 1995. Currently, the petitioner must include the crop(s) in a petition since the amended crop group/definitions have not yet been published as a Rule in the Federal Register.

In September 2000, EPA’s Health Effects Division Chemistry Science Advisory Council (HED ChemSAC) announced commodity definition amendment approvals for tropical fruit/subtropical fruit, celery, parsley, cilantro, winter squash, turnip greens, almond and pistachio.

I. Definitions:

1) Six new tropical/subtropical fruit crop definitions will be as follows:

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
Papaya:	Papaya; black sapote; canistel; mamey sapote; mango; sapodilla; and star apple.
Avocado:	Avocado; black sapote; canistel; mamey sapote; mango; papaya; sapodilla, and star apple.
Grapefruit:	Grapefruit, pummelo and their citrus cultivars and/or hybrids of these including Uniq fruit.
Guava:	Guava; feijoa; jaboticaba; wax jambu; starfruit; passionfruit; and acerola.
Lychee:	Lychee; longan; Spanish lime; rambutan; and pulasan.
Sugar apple:	Sugar apple, atemoya, custard apple, cherimoya, ilama, soursop, and biriba.

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2) Chinese celery will be added to the celery commodity definition:

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
Celery:	Celery, Florence fennel (sweet anise, sweet fennel, finocchio), <i>Chinese celery</i> (fresh leaves and stalk only).

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3) The parsley commodity definition has been changed to include cilantro, but is restricted to leaves of both crops used for raw agricultural commodity. Seeds of cilantro, known as coriander, remain in Crop Group 19: Herbs and Spices, Subgroup 19B: Spice. Dried leaves of both parsley and cilantro remain in Crop Group 19, Subgroup A: Herbs:

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
Parsley:	Parsley, Cilantro

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4) The new commodity definition for winter squash (incorporated into Crop Group 9 Cucurbit vegetables) now includes:

A B
Winter squash: Fruits of the gourd (Cucurbitaceae) family that is consumed when mature, has an inedible rind, once picked can be stored, and harvested seed can be germinated; e.g., Cucurbita spp. acorn squash, hubbard squash, pumpkin, calabaza, butternut squash, cushaw and other cultivars and/or hybrids of these

II. Crop Group additions:

1) Citrus Fruits Crop Group- Add White Sapote:

White sapote will become a member of the Citrus Fruits Crop Group, expanding the commodity definition to: grapefruit, lemons, limes, oranges, tangelos, citrus citron, kumquats, white sapote (*Casimiroa spp.*) and other cultivars and/or hybrids of these.

2) Brassica Leafy Vegetables Group- Add Turnip Greens:

Turnip greens which are in Crop Group 2 (Leaves of root and tuber vegetables group) will also become a member of crop Group 5 (*Brassica* leafy vegetables), Subgroup 5B: Leafy *Brassica* greens.

3) Tree Nut Crops -Add Pistachio:

Field residue data for almond will be translatable to pistachio. Tolerances established for almonds will be established for pistachios at the same level as petitioned.

III. Proposed Changes

1) Recent crop grouping proposals submitted to EPA by IR-4 and still in the review process include:

a) Crop Group 20- Oilseed Group Proposal, similar to Canada's Crop Group 20

b) Okra - Proposal to Add to the Fruiting Vegetables (Except Cucurbits) Group

c) Kava Roots- Proposal to Add to the Root and Tuber Vegetables Group

d) Kava Leaves- Proposal to Add to the Leaves of Root and Tuber Vegetables Group

2) Crop grouping proposals under development include one for transferring some fresh herbs from Crop Group 19: Herbs and Spices to Crop group 4: Leafy vegetables except *Brassica* vegetables or Crop Group 5: *Brassica* Leafy Vegetables.

Analysis of each commodity definition and crop group/subgroup revisions can be obtained from the author Dr. B. A. Schneider, at 703-305-5555 or E-mail schneider.bernard@epa.gov. For information on the proposed crop group changes, contact Dr. M. Braverman, at (732) 932-9575 ext 610 or braverman@aesop.rutgers.edu.