

# Macroanalytical Procedures Manual (MPM)

## MPM: V-8. Spices, Condiments, Flavors, and Crude Drugs

### C. Supplemental Method for Nutmegs

Version 1 - May 1998

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## C. Supplemental Method for Nutmegs

### (1) Scope

This method supplements [Section 8.A.](#), by describing procedures specific to nutmegs (*Myristica fragrans* Houttuyn).

### (2) Applicable Documents

- [CPG 7109.16](#)

### (3) Procedure: Determination of Contamination in Nutmegs Caused by Insects, Animal Excreta, and Extraneous Material

Examine as in [8.A.\(4\)a-d](#) for whole nutmegs, use analytical sample of 500 g or more.

### (4) Procedure: Determination of Insect-Damaged, Moldy, and Otherwise Reject Nutmegs

**a. Sample Preparation** -- Weigh and examine at least 100 nutmegs from each subsample. Cut each nutmeg in half lengthwise with a sharp knife, pruning shears, or similar implement.

**b. Visual Examination** -- Examine the cut surfaces of each nutmeg for presence of insects or signs of insect damage, presence of mold, or other evidence of defilement.

**c. Classification of Reject Material** -- Classify as moldy (reject) any nutmeg showing mold on 1/4 or more of the cut surface. For other categories of rejects, classify as in [Section 8.A.](#), (5)c.(i), Insect-Damaged; (5)c.(iii), Animal-Contaminated and (5)c.(iv), Otherwise Reject Material.

**d. Report** -- Tabulate results as in [8.A.\(5\)d](#).

## References

- (1) American Spice Trade Assn. Inc., *Cleanliness Specifications for Unprocessed Spices, Seeds and Herbs*, ASTA, 580 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632, Jan. 1983.
- (2) ASTA, *Official Analytical Methods of ASTA*, 2nd Ed., 1968.

(3) Parry, J. W., *Spices - Their Morphology, Histology, and Chemistry*, Chemical Publishing Co., Inc., New York, NY, 1962.

(4) White, Ralph T., "Studies on the Storage and Shipment of Whole Black Pepper Grown in the Orient," *J. Econ. Entomol.* 50: 423-428, 1957.

## Revision History

<b>Version No.</b>	<b>Purpose of change</b>	<b>Date</b>
V0	New process	1984
V1	Electronic Version	1998