WEIGHTS AND PROCESSED YIELDS OF

Fruits and Vegetables in Retail Containers

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION

Retail or direct marketing at farmers markets, roadside markets, stands, and pick-your-own farms is an important and increasingly popular method of marketing fresh fruits and vegetables in Georgia. However, many of the containers used in the wholesale trade are not practical for direct marketing to consumers who desire fruits and vegetables in small quantities. The retail marketer has the option of selling his product in small volume containers or by count when scales are unavailable.

Containers available for retail marketing come in a wide range of sizes and materials. Some of the more common retail containers are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Common retail containers.

Common name	Material	Common size(s)
Bags	Paper and polyethylene, often with handles	53
	Kraft paper bags	Grocery bag – 2/3 bushel No. 20 bag – 8 quarts No. 10 bag – 7 quarts No. 8 bag – 4 quarts No. 2 bag – 1 quart
Baskets	Wood	¼, ½, and 1 peck; ½ and 1 bushel
Boxes, cartons, and hampers	Corrugated paper, often waved, or wood	from ½ peck to 1 bushel
Fruit and vegetable baskets	Corrugated paper with handles	2–8 quarts
Clamshell containers	Plastic	½ pint to 4 quarts
Trays	Corrugated paper	6–8 quarts (10–15 lb)

Under specific fruit and vegetable crops, retail containers are compared with the more common containers (bushels, lugs, etc.) that are used in the wholesale trade (Tables 2 and 3). In addition, weights and approximate yields for canning and freezing of fruits and vegetables in some of the common retail containers are presented for use in retail marketing. Because processed yields can vary so much based on size of produce and processing method, consider the indicated yields to be approximate values.

Table 2. Weights and approximate processed yields for fruits.

Product	Retail volume	Net weight (lb)	Processed yield
Apples	bushel (bu.)	42 to 48	1 bu. = 15 to 18 quarts canned applesauce 1 bu. = 30 to 36 pints frozen applesauce 1 bu. = 10 to 12 quarts juice 1 peck (32 med. apples) = 4 quarts canned 1 ¼ to 1 ½ lb fresh = 1 pint frozen 2 ½ to 3 lb fresh = 1 quart canned ¼ lb = 1 cup pared, sliced
	½ bushel bag	24	
	peck	10 to 14	
Blackberries	6-quart tray	10 to 12	1 ½ to 3 lb = 1 quart canned
	gallon	5 to 6	
	quart	1 ¼ to 1 ½	
Blueberries	6-quart tray	9 to 12	2 ¼ to 3 lb = 1 quart canned 1 pint fresh = 1 pint frozen 1/3 lb = 1 cup
	gallon	6 to 8	
	quart	1 ½ to 2	
	pint	¾ to 1	
Cherries	lug	15 to 16	2 to 2 ½ lb = 1 quart canned, unpitted 1 pint = 1 pint frozen, unpitted 1/3 lb = 1 cup
	quart	1 ½ to 1 ¾	
	pint	1 ¼ to 1 ½	
Grapes (with stems)	bushel	44 to 50	1 bushel = 16 quarts of juice 1/3 lb = 1 cup (whole, stemmed)
	lug	24 to 28	
	2-quart basket	2½ to 3	
Peaches	bushel	48 to 52	1 bushel = 18 to 24 quarts canned 2 to 2 ½ lb = 1 quart canned 1 to 1 ½ lb = 1 pint frozen 2/5 lb = 1 cup
	½-bushel bag	24	
	lug	19 to 22	
	peck	12 to 14	
Pears	bushel	48 to 50	1 bushel = 20 to 25 quarts canned 2 to 2 ½ lb = 1 quart canned 1 to 1 ½ lb = 1 pint frozen 2/5 lb = 1 cup pared, sliced
	lug	21 to 24	
	peck	12 to 14	

Table 2 (continued)

Product	Retail volume	Net weight (lb)	Processed yield
Plums	bushel	50 to 56	1 bushel = 24 to 30 quarts canned 2 to 2 ½ lb = 1 quart canned 1/3 lb = 1 cup halves
	peck	13 to 15	
Raspberries	6-quart tray	8 to 10	1/3 lb = 1 cup
	3-quart tray	4	
	quart	1 ¼ to 1 ½	
	pint	¾	
Strawberries	24-quart crate	36	1 lb = 1 pint frozen
	8-quart basket	12 to 15	
	8-quart flat	12	
	6-quart basket	10 to 12	
	4-quart basket	6	
	quart	1 ¼ to 1 ½	

Table 3. Weights and approximate processed yields for vegetables.

Product	Retail volume	Net weight (lb)	Processed yield	Comments
Asparagus	pyramid crate	32	1 to 1 ½ lb = 1 pint frozen 3 to 4 lb = 1 quart canned	often sold in bunches of 1 ½ to 2 lb each
	bushel	24		
Beans, Lima	bushel	30	1 bushel = 12 to 16 pints frozen 3 to 5 lb = 1 quart canned	
Beans, Snap	bushel	28 to 30	1 bushel = 30 to 45 pints frozen 1 ½ to 2 ½ lb = 1 quart canned 1 bushel = about 15 to 16 quarts canned	often sold in 1-bushel wirebound wooden crates
Beets	bushel, topped	52	1 bushel = 35 to 42 pints frozen 2 to 3 ½ lb = 1 quart canned	often sold in 2-lb bunches with leaves
Broccoli	wax boxes	23 to 25	1 bushel = 10 to 12 quarts canned 1 lb = 1 pint frozen	commercially, most broccoli is top-iced in wax boxes
Brussels Sprouts	carton, loose pack	25	1 quart = 1 ½ pint frozen	
	quart	1 ½		
Cabbage	flat crate	53 to 60	3 lb = 1 quart canned sauerkraut 1 lb = 2 cups cooked 1 lb = 4 cups shredded	often sold by the head, varying in size with variety and tightness of head, usually 2 to 6 lb
	carton	53		
Carrots	bushel, topped	50	1 bushel = 32 to 40 pints frozen 2 to 3 lb = 1 quart canned	often sold in bags of varying weights
	bags	5 to 48 lb		
Cauliflower	carton of 9 to 16 trimmed heads	18 to 24	2 med. heads = 3 pints frozen, or 1 ½ quart canned	usually sold as 1- to 1 ½-lb heads

Table 3 (continued)

Product	Retail volume	Net weight (lb)	Processed yield	Comments
Collards	Sold in a bushel box as bunched leaves, or whole plants in boxes	18 to 20 lb bushel box	¾ to 1 lb = 1 pint	markets desire bunches to weigh 4 lb
Corn, Sweet	wirebound wood crates	42 to 50	60 ears = 14 to 17 pints frozen 1 dozen ears = 1 to 1 ½ quarts canned	usually sold at markets by the dozen which weighs 6 to 8 lb in-husk
	boxes of 4 dozen ears	24 to 32		
Cucumbers	bushel	48 to 50	1 bushel = 24 quarts of dill pickles	sometimes sold by count
Eggplants	bushel	33 to 35		sometimes sold by count
Greens	bushel	18 to 20	1 to 1 ½ lb = 1 pint frozen	mustard, spinach, and turnip are often sold in 1- to 1 ½-lb bunches or bags
Kale	bushel	18	1 bushel = 6 to 9 quarts canned or 12 to 18 pints frozen	also sold in 1- to 1½-lb bunches
Muskmelons	box or bin	48		usually sold by count; vary widely in size by variety, 3 to 6 lb each
Okra	tall bushel hamper	26 to 30	1 bushel = 17 quarts canned or 34 to 40 pints frozen	
	12-quart basket	15 to 18		
Onions	bag	40		
	bunch, green; 48 bunches	15 to 18		
Peas, English green (unshelled)	bushel	28 to 30	1 bushel = 12 to 15 pints frozen 3 to 6 lb = 1 quart canned	
	peck	7 to 8		

Table 3 (continued)

Product	Retail volume	Net weight (lb)	Processed yield	Comments
Peas, Southern	bushel hamper	25	3 ½ to 4 lb = 1 quart	
Peas, Edible Pod	peck	8 to 10		
	quart	1 to 1 ½		
Peppers, Green Hot	bushel box	28	2/3 lb = 1 pint frozen	often sold by count; large peppers: 80-85 per bushel; small peppers: 110 per bushel
	cartons	16 to 25		
Potatoes, Irish (mature)	sack	100	1 bushel = 20 quarts canned	
	bushel	60		
	peck	10		
Potatoes (new)	No. 10 bag	10		
Pumpkins	pie pumpkin, each	5 to 15	3 to 4 lb = 1 quart canned	sold by count or in large bin boxes
	Jack o'lantern, each	15 to 40		
Radishes	carton of 30 6-oz film bags	12		also sold in bunches of ½ to ¾ lb
Rhubarb	bunch	2 to 2 ½	1 lb cooked = ¾ cup	
Rutabaga	bushel basket	56	1 lb = 2 2/3 cups diced	usually sold by count
	peck	15		
Squash, Summer	bushel	40 to 44	1 bushel = 32 to 40 pints frozen 2 to 4 lb = 1 quart canned	zucchini, crookneck, pattypan, etc.

Table 3 (continued)

Product	Retail volume	Net weight (lb)	Processed yield	Comments
Squash, Winter	small, each	1 to 4	3 lb = 2 pints frozen 2 ½ to 3 lb = 1 quart canned	Usually sold by count, may be graded by size. Small includes varieties such as acorn, butternut, and buttercup. Intermediate includes delicious, golden hubbard, banana. Large includes blue hubbard, jumbo banana.
	intermediate, each	6 to 12		
	large, each	15 to 40		
Sweet Potatoes	box (cured)	40	2/3 lb = 1 pint frozen 2 to 3 lb = 1 quart canned	
Tomatoes	paperboard box	25		
	place pack	18 to 20		
Turnips	without tops; mesh bag or bushel	50 to 56	1 lb = 2 2/3 cups diced	6 to 8 turnips per bunch; roots to be 2 to 3 in. in diameter
	peck	12 to 15		
	bunched with tops; sold by the dozen in paperboard box	18 dozen		
Watermelons	pallet bin			usually sold by counts of 36, 45, and 60

Note: Net weight per container may vary slightly due to variation in product size. Net weight should not be less than the lowest stated weight listed.

Volumes and conversions

Bushel = 4 pecks = 8 gallons (dry) = 32 quarts (dry) = 64 pints (dry) = 2,150 cu. in.
Peck = ¼ bushel = 8 quarts (dry) = 538 cubic inches
Lug = shallow containers, usually wood, that vary in size
Gallon = 4 quarts = 231 cu. in.
Kilo (or kilogram) = 2.205 lb
Liter = 1.057 quart (liquid)

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