

Common Defect Glossary

Lettuce



Active Mildew

AKA: "powdery mildew," it is a fungal consumption of plant tissue



Cracking

The splitting of the outer ribs, caused by an excessive growth rate



Epidermal Peel

When ice forming causes the outermost epidermal layer to separate



Bacterial Spotting

A bacterial consumption of plant tissue



Cupping

When leaf lettuce outer leaf margins fold inward to protect the meristem from harsh weather



Fringe Burn

Burn that occurs on the uppermost leaf margins in leaf lettuces (see tip burn)



Bleaching

An excessively pale appearance of harvested Iceberg lettuce



Decay

The necrosis of plant tissue



Internal Burn

Burn that occurs on inner leaves, often near the meristem (see tip burn)



Bottom Rot

A fungal consumption of plant tissue at the lower, ground-contact portion



Discoloration

An off-coloring caused by harsh weather



Insect Damage

Insect feeding injury

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Mechanical Damage

Broken rib material and/or leaf material; commonly a result of harvest and processing



Rib Blight

A discoloration of a concentrated area of tissue, usually the inside of the rib, up the rib where it branches into leaf material. Thought to be caused by hot weather, and does not usually advance after harvest



Sunburn

Sun damage of outer tissue, easily trimmed



Mildew Scarring

Scarred tissue resulting from previous mildew activity



Ribbiness

Prominent ribs; a response to warm weather



Tip Burn

Concentrated, dark brown spots on a portion of the leaf margins, thought to be the result of a calcium deficiency, most often spurred by quick growth during warm weather



Misshape

An irregular shaping caused by harsh weather



Russet Spotting

Dark brown, small, oblong spots usually concentrated at the base of the ribs, most commonly caused by exposure to ethylene



Twisting

Ribs that grow in an off axis, twisted pattern, as opposed to a normal, straight orientation



Pinking

A diffused pink discoloration often at the base of the ribs, on the inner side, caused by extreme temperatures (low or high), precipitation, or storage in low oxygen conditions



Seeder

An elongated core, an indicator of over maturity



Weak Tip

A form of tip burn found in Iceberg lettuce



Puffiness

Light weight, low density, strong indicator of under maturity



Solid Heads

Heavy, dense heads; often an indicator of over maturity



Wind Damage

Discoloring and tearing of leaf tissue as a result of friction and pulling during high winds