
International Standard



5563

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Dried peppermint (*Mentha piperita* Linnaeus) — Specification

Menthe poivrée (Mentha piperita Linnaeus) séchée — Spécifications

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Every member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council. They are approved in accordance with ISO procedures requiring at least 75 % approval by the member bodies voting.

International Standard ISO 5563 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Agricultural food products*.

Dried peppermint (*Mentha piperita* Linnaeus) — Specification

1 Scope and field of application

This International Standard specifies requirements for dried leaves, or broken or rubbed dried leaves, of peppermint.

The term “dried mint” includes dehydrated mint, i.e. artificially dried mint.

It does not apply to dried mint (spearmint), for which requirements are given in ISO 2256.

The recommended procedure for identifying leaves of *Mentha rubra* Hudson is given in annex A, a method for the detection of carvone is given in annex B and recommendations relating to storage and transport conditions are given in annex C.

2 References

ISO 928, *Spices and condiments — Determination of total ash*.

ISO 930, *Spices and condiments — Determination of acid-insoluble ash*.

ISO 939, *Spices and condiments — Determination of moisture content — Entrainment method*.

ISO 948, *Spices and condiments — Sampling*.

ISO 2825, *Spices and condiments — Preparation of a ground sample for analysis*.

ISO 3588, *Spices and condiments — Determination of degree of fineness of grinding — Hand sieving method (Reference method)*.

ISO 6571, *Spices, condiments and herbs — Determination of volatile oil content*.

3 Description

Dried peppermint is constituted of dried leaves, or broken or rubbed dried leaves, of the cultivated perennial *Mentha piperita* Linnaeus var. *piperita* (*M. aquatica* Linnaeus x *M. spicata* Hudson) collected prior to, or at the commencement of, flowering.

The leaves are slightly glossy in appearance. Their colour is dark green on the adaxial surface and lighter on the abaxial surface.

4 Requirements

4.1 Odour and flavour

Dried peppermint, particularly after rubbing, shall have a highly mentholated odour and a spicy, pungent and refreshing flavour. It shall be free from off-flavours (for example mustiness, or other foreign or disagreeable odours or flavours).

4.2 Freedom from insects, moulds, etc.

Dried peppermint shall be free from living insects and moulds, and shall be practically free from dead insects, insect fragments and rodent contamination visible to the naked eye (corrected, if necessary, for abnormal vision) or with such magnification as may be necessary in any particular case. If the magnification exceeds X 10, this fact shall be stated in the test report.

4.3 Extraneous matter

The proportion of leaves of species of mint other than peppermint or parts of other plants shall not exceed the value given in table 1 for extraneous plant material.

The product shall not contain more than 0,5 % (*m/m*) of leaves of *Mentha rubra* Hudson (*M. arvensis* Linnaeus x *M. aquatica* Linnaeus x *M. viridis* Linnaeus) having a strong off-odour (of carvone).

A recommended procedure for identifying leaves of *Mentha rubra* Hudson is given in annex A. Annex B gives a procedure for detection of carvone, for use when necessary in checking for or confirming the presence of *Mentha rubra*.

4.4 Particle size

The particle size of crushed peppermint leaves shall be determined by the method specified in ISO 3588.