

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

CIRCULAR
OF THE
BUREAU OF STANDARDS

S. W. STRATTON, DIRECTOR

No. 10

LEGAL WEIGHTS (IN POUNDS) PER BUSHEL
OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES

[2d Edition]
Issued May 15, 1911



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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CONTENTS

	Page
I. Introduction	3
II. Commodities for which bushel weights have been adopted in but one or two States	5
III. Commodities for which bushel weights have been more widely adopted ..	7
Alfalfa seed to coal	7
Coke to Indian corn	8
Kaffir corn to popcorn	9
Potatoes to wheat	10

I. INTRODUCTION.

This circular shows simply the legal weights per bushel of various commodities, as fixed by national legislation mainly for customs purposes or by the State legislatures for purposes of commerce within the States. In many cases these weights differ considerably in the different States and in the cases of only a few commodities, such as wheat, oats, and pease, are the legal weights uniform throughout the entire country. It should not be assumed that the legal weights herein given represent a volume equal to the bushel of 2150.42 cubic inches (United States bushel). On account of the variations in the densities of commodities in different localities and in different seasons, it is impossible to fix with any degree of certainty the weight of a given volume. The best that could be done would be to give the average of all localities for a number of years. Inasmuch, however, as the weight of a given volume of any commodity, such as potatoes, apples, coal, corn, etc., can only be approximately fixed, it is important in transactions involving such measures that it be distinctly understood which bushel is meant, viz, the volume of 2150.42 cubic inches or a certain number of pounds called a bushel, which might be quite a different amount. On account of the impossibility of reconciling these two definitions of the bushel, it is recommended that all sales be made by weight, as is now the practice in wheat transactions.

The aim has been to cover all available legislation up to the time of going to press (May 15, 1911).

II. COMMODITIES FOR WHICH BUSHEL WEIGHTS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED IN BUT ONE OR TWO STATES

- Alsike (or Swedish) seed, 60 pounds (Maryland and Oklahoma).
- Beggarweed seed, 62 pounds (Florida).
- Bermuda grass seed, 40 pounds (Oklahoma).
- Blackberries, 30 pounds (Iowa); 48 pounds (Tennessee); dried, 28 pounds (Tennessee).
- Blueberries, 42 pounds (Minnesota).
- Bromus inermis, 14 pounds (North Dakota).
- Burr clover, in hulls, 8 pounds (North Carolina).
- Cabbage, 50 pounds (Tennessee).
- Canary seed, 60 pounds (Tennessee); 50 pounds (Iowa).
- Cantaloupe melon, 50 pounds (Tennessee).
- Caster seed, 50 pounds (Maryland).
- Cement, 80 pounds (Tennessee).
- Cherries, 40 pounds (Iowa); with stems, 56 pounds (Tennessee); without stems, 64 pounds (Tennessee).
- Chufa, 54 pounds (Florida).
- Cotton seed, staple, 42 pounds (South Carolina).
- Culm, 80 pounds (Maryland).
- Currants, 40 pounds (Iowa and Minnesota).
- Feed, 50 pounds (Massachusetts).
- Fescue, seed of all the, except the tall and meadow fescue, 14 pounds (North Carolina).
- Fescue, tall and meadow fescue grass seed, 24 pounds (North Carolina).
- Grapes, 40 pounds (Iowa); with stems, 48 pounds (Tennessee); without stems, 60 pounds (Tennessee).
- Guavas, 54 pounds (Florida).
- Hominy, 60 pounds (Ohio); 62 pounds (Tennessee).
- Horseradish, 50 pounds (Tennessee).
- Italian rye-grass seed, 20 pounds (Tennessee).
- Japan clover in hulls, 25 pounds (North Carolina).
- Johnson grass, 28 pounds (Arkansas); 25 pounds (North Carolina).
- Kale, 30 pounds (Tennessee).
- Land plaster, 100 pounds (Tennessee).
- Lentils, 60 pounds (North Carolina).
- Lucerne, 60 pounds (North Carolina).
- Lupines, 60 pounds (North Carolina).

Meadow seed, tall, 14 pounds (North Carolina).

Meal (?), 46 pounds (Alabama); unbolted, 48 pounds (Alabama).

Middlings, fine, 40 pounds (Indiana); coarse middlings, 30 pounds (Indiana).

Millet, Japanese barnyard, 35 pounds (Massachusetts and New Hampshire).

Mustard, 30 pounds (Tennessee).

Mustard seed, 58 pounds (North Carolina).

Oat grass seed, 14 pounds (North Carolina).

Plums, 40 pounds (Florida); 64 pounds (Tennessee); dried, 28 pounds (Michigan).

Prunes, dried, 28 pounds (Idaho); green, 45 pounds (Idaho).

Radish seed, 50 pounds (Iowa).

Raspberries, 32 pounds (Iowa and Kansas); 48 pounds (Tennessee).

Rhubarb, 50 pounds (Tennessee).

Sage, 4 pounds (Tennessee).

Salads, 30 pounds (Tennessee).

Sand, 130 pounds (Iowa).

Seed of brome grasses, 14 pounds (North Carolina).

Spinach, 30 pounds (Tennessee).

Strawberries, 32 pounds (Iowa); 48 pounds (Tennessee).

Sugar cane seed (amber), 57 pounds (New Jersey).

Sunflower seed, 24 pounds (North Carolina).

Teosinte, 59 pounds (North Carolina).

Velvet grass seed, 7 pounds (Tennessee).

Vetches, 60 pounds (North Carolina).

In the following pages is given an alphabetical list of 84 commodities, for which legal weights (in pounds) per bushel have been more generally adopted by States. Special explanations or conditions affecting the definition are printed in foot notes to these tables.

III. COMMODITIES FOR WHICH BUSHEL WEIGHTS HAVE BEEN MORE WIDELY ADOPTED

	Apples			Barley	Beans		Beets	Blue-grass seed	Bran ¹	Broom-corn seed	Buckwheat	Carrots	Charcoal	Chestnuts	Clover seed	Coal						
	Alfalfa seed	Apples ¹	Dried apples		Apple seeds.	Beans ¹										Castor beans (shelled)	Coal ¹	Anthracite coal	Bituminous coal	Cannel coal	Mineral coal	Stone coal
U. S.				48		50					42											
Ala.		24		47	60																	
Ariz.				45	55																	
Ark.	3 50	24		48	60		14	20	43	52					60							
Cal.				50						40												
Colo.				48	60		14			52					60	80					80	
Conn.	48	25		48	60		60	20		48	50		20		60		80					
Del.													20									
D. C.																						
Fla.	3 48	24		48	60	48			20													
Ga.		24		47	60			14	20	52					60						80	
Hawaii.				48																		
Idaho ²⁰				48	60	46		14	20	52					60						80	
Ill.		24		48	60	46		14		50					60						80	
Ind.		25		48	60	46		14		50					60						80	
Iowa.	60	48	24	48	60	46	56	14	20	50	52	50	20		60						80	
Kans.	60	3 48	24	48	60	46	56	14	20	50	50	50			60						80	
Ky.		24		47	60	45		14	20	56					60		76	76	76	76	75	76
La.				48																		
Me.	44			48	60		60			48	50											
Md.	60		28	48	60	50		14	20		50	20			60	80						
Mass.		48	25	48	11 60		60		20	43	50				60							
Mich.		48	22	48	60	46		14		48					60						80	
Minn.	3 50	28		48	60		50	14		57	50	45	20		60	80						
Miss.		26		48	60	46		14	20	48					60							80
Mo.		48	24	48	12 60	46		14	20		52	50			60						80	
Mont.		45		48	60		50	14	20		52	50			60						76	
Nebr.	60	3 48	24	48	60	46		14	20	52					60						80	
Nev.	60	3 48	24	48	60	46	56	9 14	20	50	50	50			60							
N. H.		48	25	48	2 11		60		20	48	50				60							
N. J.		50	25	48	60		60			50	50				64							
N. Mex.																						
N. Y.		48	25	48	60				20	48	50				60							
N. C.	60	3 48		40	13 60	1 46		14		46	50			14 50	60							
N. Dak.		50		48	60		60		20	30	42				60							80
Ohio.		50	24	48	60		56			50	50				60							
Okla.	60	48	24	48	60	46	60	14	20	30	52	50			60						80	80
Oreg.		45	28	46							42				60							
Pa.				47						48			15 16 18		60	17 75		76				
R. I.		48	25	40	48	60	46	50		20	48	50	20		60	80						
S. C.																						
S. Dak.				48	60		60		20	30	42				60							80
Tenn.	3 50	24	40	48	12 18 60	46	50	14	20	42	50	50	22	50	19 60							80
Tex.		45	28	48	60				20		42		22		60							80
Utah.																						
Vt.		46		48	62		60			48	50				60							
Va.		28		48	60			14		52				57	60							80
Wash.	3 45	28		48							42				60							
W. Va.		25		48	60					52					60							
Wis.		50	25	48	60		50		20		50	50			60							80
Wyo.																						

¹ Not defined.

² Small white beans, 60 pounds.

³ Green apples.

⁴ Sugar beets and mangel-wurzel.

⁵ Shelled beans, 60 pounds; velvet beans, 73 pounds.

⁶ White beans.

⁷ Wheat bran.

⁸ Green unshelled beans, 56 pounds.

⁹ English blue-grass seed, 22 pounds; native blue-grass seed, 14 pounds

¹⁰ Also castor seed.

¹¹ Soy beans, 58 pounds.

¹² Green unshelled beans, 30 pounds.

¹³ Soy beans.

¹⁴ Free from hulls.

¹⁵ Commercially dry, for all hard woods.

¹⁶ Fifteen pounds commercially dry, for all soft woods.

¹⁷ Standard weight in borough of Greensburg.

¹⁸ Dried beans.

¹⁹ Red and white.

²⁰ Idaho law repealed in 1905.

III. COMMODITIES FOR WHICH BUSHEL WEIGHTS HAVE BEEN MORE WIDELY ADOPTED—Continued

	Coke	Corn ¹⁶			Corn meal			Cotton seed			Cranberries	Cucumbers	Flaxseed (linseed)	Gooseberries	(Plastering) hair	Hemp seed	Herds grass	Hickory nuts	Hungarian grass seed	Indian corn or maize
		Corn ¹	Corn in ear, husked	Corn in ear, unhusked	Shelled corn	Corn meal ¹	Corn meal, bolted	Corn meal, unbolted	Cotton seed ¹	Sea island cotton seed										
U. S.	56				48			32				56								
Ala.		70	75	56																
Ariz.	54				48			33 ³				56								
Ark.		70	74	56																
Cal.																				52
Colo.		70			50											44				56
Conn.					50				44	30		55				45				56
Del.						44	48													56
D. C.																				
Fla.			70	56	48			32	46											
Ga.		70		56	48			30				56		8	44					
Hawaii.																				56
Idaho ¹⁷																				
Ill.		70		56	48							56		8	44					
Ind.		² 70		56	50						33									
Iowa.	38	³ 50	⁴ 70	75	56			50				48	56	40		44		50		
Kans.		⁶ 70		56	50							56		⁸ 8	44			50		
Ky.		70		56	50							56		8	44			50		
La.		56																		
Me.		56			⁸ 50									11		45				
Md.			⁴ 70		56	48						56				44	45		50	
Mass.					⁹ 50	50			44	30	32	55			44	45			¹⁰ 56	
Mich.			⁴ 70		56	50					40	56			44			50		
Minn.			70		56						36		40	⁸ 8	50			48		
Miss.			72		56	48	44	48	32			56			44			50		
Mo.				70	56	50			33			48	56		44			48		
Mont.			70		56	50						56			44			50		
Nebr.			70		56	50						56		8	44			50		
Nev.		⁶ 70		56	48							56			48			50		
N. H.		⁹ 50			50						32	56				45				56
N. J.												55								56
N. Mex.																				
N. Y.					50				44	30		55				45				56
N. C.					48				30	44		55			44			¹¹ 50		56
N. Dak.		70		56								56								
Ohio.	40		68		56											44			50	
Okla.			70	72	56	50			32			48	56		44					
Oreg.																				56
Pa.	40	58																		56
R. I.	40		70		56	50				44	30		56		44			50		
S. C.					¹² 48	48	48	¹³ 30												
S. Dak.			70		56							56								
Tenn.	40		70	¹⁴ 74	56		50	48	28			48	56	48	8	44		50	48	
Tex.			70	72	56				32				56			44			48	
Utah.																	45			56
Vt.																	12		48	
Va.			70		56	50			32			56		8	44					
Wash.																				
W. Va.		56										56								56
Wis.					50				44	30								48		56
Wyo.												¹⁵ 50	56		8	44				

¹ Not defined.² Corn in ear, 70 pounds until Dec. 1 next after grown; 68 pounds thereafter.³ Sweet corn.⁴ In the cob.⁶ Indian corn in ear.⁷ Corn in ear, from Nov. 1 to May 1 following, 70 pounds; 68 pounds from May 1 to Nov. 1.⁸ Indian-corn meal.⁹ Cracked corn.¹⁰ Shelled.¹¹ Free from hulls.¹² Standard weight bushel corn meal, bolted or unbolted, 48 pounds.¹³ Except the seed of long staple cotton, of which the weight shall be 42 pounds.¹⁴ Green unshelled corn, 100 pounds.¹⁵ Green.¹⁶ See also "Popcorn," "Indian corn," and "Kafir corn."¹⁷ See note ²⁰ on p. 7.

III. COMMODITIES FOR WHICH BUSHEL WEIGHTS HAVE BEEN MORE WIDELY ADOPTED—Continued

	Kaffir corn	Lime		Malt	Millet	Oats	Onions		Orchard grass seed	Osage orange seed	Parsnips	Peaches			Peanuts (or "Ground peas**")	Pears ¹	Pease		Popcorn ²⁷				
		Lime ¹	Unshelled lime				Onions ¹	Onion sets				Peaches ¹	Dried peaches, peeled	Dried peaches, unpeeled			Green pease, unshelled	Peas ¹					
U. S.				34		32												60					
Ala.						32													60				
Ariz.						32													60				
Ark.					50	32	57	14											60				
Cal.						32																	
Colo.	80					32	57																
Conn.	70					32	52			45										60			
Del.																							
D. C.																							
Fla.					50	32	56					54			22	60							
Ga.		80				32	57													60			
Hawaii.						32																	
Idaho ²⁸		80				32	57																
Ill.		80				32	57																
Ind.			38 35		50	32 32	48	14	33	55				33 33						56			
Iowa.	56	80			50	32	57	5	30	14	32	42	48		33	20		50		6	70		
Kans.	56		80	32	50	32	57				52	48			33					7	60		
Ky.			35		50	32	57	9	36	14					39						28	56	
La.						32	57																
Me.						32	52				45											60	
Md.	80		4	34	10	50	32	57	14			12	40		22					13	60		
Mass.	70					32	52			45	48			33	14	20	58				60		
Mich.	70				50	32	54	14	33					28							60		
Minn.	80				48	32	52	14		42				15	28	14					60		
Miss.		80		38	50	32	57							33							60		
Mo.				38	50	32	57	16	28	14	36	44	48	33			48	56		17	60		
Mont.		80		30	50	32	57				50						45				60		
Nebr.		80		30	50	32	57	25		32				33							60		
Nev.	56			32	50	32	57				50	48		15	33					7	60		
N. H.	70					32	52				45	48		15	33	14	20	58			23	56	
N. J.						30	57															60	
N. Mex.																							
N. Y.	70					32	57							33								60	
N. C.	50				50	32	57	14								22						60	
N. Dak.	80				50	32	52															60	
Ohio.	70			34	50	32	55					48	33									18	42
Okla.	56	80		38	50	32	57	10	28	14	36	44	48	33	33	22	48	56			60		
Oreg.						32								28			45						
Pa.						32	50																
R. I.	70			38	50	32	50				50	48	33									3	60
S. C.																							
S. Dak.	80					32	52																60
Tenn.	19	80			20	50	32	21	56	22	23	14	33	50	28	50	26	23	24	56	30	60	70
Tex.					50	32	57						50	28									
Utah.						32	52																60
Vt.						30	57	28	14	34				40	32	22						20	60
Va.	80			38	50	32																	
Wash.														28									
W. Va.						32								33			3	45					
Wis.	70	80		28	34	50	32	57			44			33									60
Wyo.																							

¹ Not defined.
² Green peaches.
³ Green.
⁴ Malt rye.
⁵ Top sets; bottom sets 32 pounds.
⁶ Shelled, 56 pounds.
⁷ Shelled, dry.
⁸ Strike measure.
⁹ Bottom onion sets.
¹⁰ German and American.
¹¹ Shelled.
¹² Peaches (peeled); unpeeled 32 pounds.
¹³ Cowpeas.
¹⁴ Roasted; green 22 pounds.
¹⁵ Not stated whether peeled or unpeeled.
¹⁶ Top onion sets.
¹⁷ Including split peas.
¹⁸ In the ear.
¹⁹ Slacked lime, 40 pounds.
²⁰ German, Missouri, and Tennessee millet seeds.
²¹ Matured onions.
²² Bottom onion sets, 32 pounds.
²³ Matured.
²⁴ Matured pears, 56 pounds; dried pears, 26 pounds.
²⁵ Black-eyed pease.
²⁶ Barley malt.
²⁷ Includes "Rice corn."
²⁸ "Rice corn."
²⁹ See note ²⁰, p. 7.

III. COMMODITIES FOR WHICH BUSHEL WEIGHTS HAVE BEEN MORE WIDELY ADOPTED—Continued

	Potatoes			Quinces	Rape seed	Red top	Rough rice	Rutabagas	Rye meal	Rye	Salt			Shorts ¹	Sorghum seed	Spelt or spiltz	Timothy seed	Tomatoes	Tur-nips		Walnuts	Wheat	
	Potatoes ¹	Sweet potatoes	White potatoes								Tur-nips ¹	Common Eng-lish tur-nips	Salt ¹						Fine salt	Coarse salt			
U. S.	60									56												60	
Ala.		55	60							56										55			60
Ariz.										55													60
Ark.	60	50				14				56	50			50		60				57			60
Cal.										54													60
Colo.	60									56	80						45						60
Conn.	60	54					45	60	50	56		50	70	20						50			60
Del.										56													60
D. C.	60									56	60				56								60
Fla.		60	60	48						56										54			60
Ga.		55	60				43			56							45			55			60
Hawaii.										56													60
Idaho ⁹		50	60							56		55	50			45				55			60
Ill.	60	55								56	50					45				55			60
Iowa.	60	46		48	50	14		50		56	80			² 50	35	45	50		55		50	60	
Kans.	60	50								56	80					45	56		55			60	
Ky.	⁵ 60	55								56	50	55				45			60			60	
La.										56												60	
Me.	60							60	50	50		60	70							50		60	
Md.	60	60			50	³ 14				56		56	70		50		45	60	60			60	
Mass.	60	54		48			45		50	55		50	70	20		45	56		55			60	
Mich.		56	60			⁴ 14				56	56					45			58			60	
Minn.		55	60		50	⁴ 14		52		56					57	45			55			60	
Miss.		60	60							56	50				42	45			55			60	
Mo.		56	60			⁴ 14		50		55	50				42	45	45		42			60	
Mont.	60									56	50					45			50			60	
Nebr.		50	60							56	50					45			55			60	
Nev.	60	50								56	80				50	45	56		56			60	
N. H.	⁵ 60	54		48					50	56		50	70	20		45	56		55			60	
N. J.		54	60							56						45						60	
N. Mex.										56												60	
N. Y.		54	60							56		56	70	20		45						60	
N. C.	⁵ 56	56	60		50	⁴ 14	44		50	56					50	45			50		⁶ 50	60	
N. Dak.		46	60							56	80					40	45		60			60	
Ohio.	⁵ 60	50								56						45	56	60				60	
Okla.	60	55	60		50	⁴ 14		50		56	80				50	45	45		60		42	60	
Oreg.										56												60	
Pa.	56									56		⁷ 62	85									60	
R. I.		54	60						50	56		50	70	20			45	56	50			60	
S. C.										56												60	
S. Dak.		46	60							56	80					45	42		60			60	
Tenn.		50	60	48		⁴ 14				56	50				50	45	56				50	60	
Tex.		55	60							56	50					45	55	55				60	
Utah.										56	70					45			60			⁸ 60	
Vt.	60									56	50					45			60			60	
Va.		56	56			12				56						45			55			60	
Wash.	60									56												60	
W. Va.	60									56						45						60	
Wis.	60	54			50		45	56	50	56		50	70	20		45			42			60	
Wyo.										56												60	

¹ Not defined.² Sorghum saccharatum seed.³ Red top grass seed (chaff); fancy 32 pounds.⁴ Seed.⁵ Irish potatoes.⁶ Free from hulls.⁷ Ground salt, 70 pounds.⁸ India wheat, 46 pounds.See note ²⁰, p. 7.

