





Bunch categories for sorting and grading

| <i>Bunch category</i> | <i>Bunch characteristics</i> | <i>Deduction</i> | <i>Explanation</i> |
|---|---|------------------|--|
| Good  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full of fruits • Yellow/orange/red colour • Several loose fruits • Fruits are soft • Oil drips out when fruit is cut • Undamaged and clean bunch • Bunch larger than 3 kg • Stalks are less than 2 cm long | No | Optimum oil, extraction and quality. |
| Unripe  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruits mostly black in colour • Fruits are hard • No loose fruits • Inside is yellow • No oil comes out when fruits are cut | Yes | Unripe fruit has very little oil. |
| Underripe  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruits mostly reddish black in colour • Hard fruits • No loose fruits • Yellow inside • No oil comes out when a fruit is cut | Yes | Underripe fruit has less oil than ripe fruit. |
| Overripe  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many loose fruits • Bright orange-yellow in colour • Fruits are soft • Oil easily comes dripping out | Yes | Many fruits have already fallen out of the bunch. The oil quality in overripe fruits is less good. |

Empty

- Few or no fruits left on the bunch

Rejected immediately

Little or no oil.

Small

- Bunch weighs less than 3 kg
- Usually from very young palms

Yes

Small bunches from young palms have little oil.

Damaged

- Damaged by rats or other pests
- Damaged during harvesting or in transport

Yes

Damaged fruit contains less oil.

Long stalk

- Bunch stalk is more than 2 cm long

Yes

Stalks add weight without oil and suck up oil during processing.
