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Layer of fat at top not more than ½ to 1 inch

### **Pack**

Pieces of uniform size, appropriate to serve

Packed to within ½ to 1 inch from top of jar

Full pack, but not too tight to prevent good heat penetration in processing

Liquid preferably covers meat

### **Container**

Clean, standard jar

Vacuum sealed

Free from cracks, rust or other damage

Properly labeled

### **Common problem/probable reason**

#### **Fat layer too thick**

Failure to remove enough fat

## **Evaluating pickles**

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See [Pickles and Relishes: Problems and Solutions, SP 50-744](#)

Judging score cards

[Pickles and Relishes Check Sheet, 512-03](#)

### **Appearance**

#### **Fruit or cucumber**

Uniform in size, color, and shape

Plump, not shriveled or soft

Natural color characteristic of the kind of pickle

No artificial color

#### **Liquid**

Clear

### **Pack**

Full without crowding

Sufficient liquid to cover food

Liquid to ½ inch from top of jar

### **Container**

Clean, standard jar

Vacuum sealed

Free from cracks, rusts, or other damage

Properly labeled

### **Common problems/probable reasons**

#### **Shriveling**

Too strong brining solution

#### **Soft or slippery**

Brine or vinegar too weak

Pickles not kept covered with liquid

Scum not removed daily during brining

Jars not sealed airtight

Pickles stored in warm area

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Revised by Elaine Schrupf, Extension 4-H youth development specialist; original information prepared by Carolyn Raab, Extension foods and nutrition specialist, and Barbara Sawyer, former Extension 4-H youth development specialist; all of Oregon State University.

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