



classiccaladiumsllc.com

## Tuber Shrinkage and Breakage

*Grading and shipping caladium tubers is not an exact science and results vary somewhat from year to year based on a number of factors accordingly:*

- Industry grading standards have an overlap between grades such that a large #1 is the same size as a small Jumbo and a range of sizes within a given grade:
  - a. #3 Bulbs: "0.75-1.0" inches
  - b. #2 Bulbs: "1.0-1.5" inches
  - c. #1 Bulbs: "1.5-2.5" inches
  - d. # Jumbo Bulbs: "2.5-3.5" inches
  - e. # Mammoth Bulbs: "3.5-4.5" inches
- Some varieties shrink more than others so December graded tubers might be smaller by a February shipping date. Tubers are not regraded and counted before shipping unless there is an obvious problem.
- Certain varieties tend to be graded on the small size (straps) versus others tend to be graded on the large size (fancies).
- Depending on the growing year tubers can average smaller one year and larger another year withing the range of a given grade and variety (farming).
- Certain varieties (highly branched varieties) tend break more when packing and shipping than others. Customers need to consider total bulb volume when judging. For instance, for any given planted area in the landscape or pot you want a certain bulb volume for a certain final result. We for instance recommend 4 X #2, or 2 X #1 or 1 X Jumbo in a 6" pot (to achieve a certain bulb volume/pot and therefore the desired result). Similarly, we recommend 4 X #2, or 2 X #1 or 1 X Jumbo /sq ft of planted area in the landscape. When bulbs break in shipping the same bulb volume/area can be achieved by planting more of the smaller breakoffs in the same planned area or number of pots.

More on Caladium Tubers: [Go Here](#)