NATIONAL SUGAR MARKETING

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Mycotoxins & Aflatoxins

Granulated sugar is considered free of mycotoxins, including all classes of aflatoxins; a type of mycotoxin. Mycotoxins are metabolic products of various mold species, particularly Aspergillus flavus and Aspergillus parasiticus.

Sugar beets are harvested and stored until processed. The extraction of sugar from the beets includes multiple processes in which the sugar containing liquid is held at elevated temperatures over 95˚ C and at pH concentrations of 11 for more than 90 minutes. Any mycotoxins that may have been present on the beets are denatured and or precipitated during liming and carbonation.

The processing conditions under which sugar is extracted and refined are such that no mold growth can take place. The sugar containing solution is evaporated to supersaturation and the sucrose is crystallized from the solution. The crystallization is exclusionary of all non-sucrose.

The water activity of the granulated sugar is below 0.4 and precludes any growth of molds necessary for mycotoxin production during storage, packaging, and shipping of the product.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mike Fowers at (208) 383-6515 or email at mfowers@natsugar.com.

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