



Matcha Grades Explained

1. Ceremonial Grade (Highest Quality)

Color: Bright, vibrant jade green

Texture: Ultra-fine, silky powder

Taste: Smooth, naturally sweet, rich **umami**, almost no bitterness

Details:

Ceremonial grade matcha is made from the **youngest first-harvest tea leaves**, carefully shade-grown and stone-ground. It is traditionally used in the Japanese tea ceremony and is meant to be **whisked with hot water and enjoyed on its own**.

Best use:

- Traditional matcha tea
- Koicha (thick matcha)
- Premium tea service

2. Premium Grade

Color: Bright green but slightly less vivid than ceremonial

Texture: Fine and smooth

Taste: Balanced sweetness and mild vegetal flavor with a light bitterness

Details:

Premium matcha is also produced from high-quality leaves but slightly more mature than ceremonial grade. It still delivers good aroma and color.

Best use:

- Daily drinking matcha
- Matcha latte
- Iced matcha drinks

3. Culinary Grade

Color: Medium green

Texture: Fine but slightly less delicate

Taste: Stronger, more robust tea flavor

Details:

Culinary matcha is designed to **hold its flavor when mixed with other ingredients** like milk, sugar, or flour.

Best use:

- Matcha latte
- Baking (cakes, cookies)
- Ice cream and desserts

4. Classic Grade

Color: Darker green

Texture: Slightly coarser

Taste: More bitterness, stronger tea taste

Details:

This grade is usually made from later harvest leaves and is often used for **large-batch beverages or food production**.

Best use:

- Smoothies
 - Food manufacturing
 - Cooking applications
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5. Industrial Grade (Lowest Grade)

Color: Dull yellow-green or olive green

Texture: Coarser powder

Taste: Bitter and astringent

Details:

Industrial grade matcha is typically produced from **older leaves or later harvests**. It is mainly used for **processed foods, flavoring, or extracts**.

Best use:

- Packaged snacks
- Flavor additives
- Mass-produced products

✔ Quick Quality Indicator Guide

Grade	Color	Flavor	Typical Use
Ceremonial	Bright emerald	Sweet, umami	Tea ceremony
Premium	Bright green	Balanced	Daily tea / latte
Culinary	Medium green	Strong	Baking & drinks
Classic	Dark green	Bitter	Cooking
Industrial	Yellow-green	Astringent	Food processing