
11. Colour Changes of Three Different Strawberry Cultivars:
Sweet Charlie, Oso Grande and Chandler, During Storage

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Strawberry has been considered a non-climacteric fruit (3). This implies that the fruit will not develop its physiological and organoleptic characteristics if harvested before full ripe stage. However, in previous studies authors noticed an increase of ethylene production during both pre-climacteric and climacteric stages of fruit development (2). Colour changes of full ripe and three-quarters coloured strawberries suggested that this fruit might be a climacteric rather than an absolute non climacteric (1, 4).

Colour is a quality index used as a control for strawberry harvest. In this work three different cultivars (Sweet Charlie, Oso Grande and Chandler) grown at Floral City, Florida, were harvested at various stages of colour development: full ripe, three-quarters coloured, half-coloured and showing colour.

Colour was measured before and after storage at 1°C during 7 days followed by conditioning at 20°C for one day. Colour changes suggested that strawberries could be harvested half

coloured and three-quarters coloured since they continue normal colour development after harvest and during storage.

Harvesting at earlier stages of colour development would be important since strawberries at this stage are not so easily damaged as when full ripe, and therefore, they could be shipped over considerable distances reaching the market with improved quality.

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References

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