

Title Stone fruit injuries and damage at the wholesale market of São Paulo, Brazil

Author Lilian Amorim, Marise C. Martins, Silvia A. Lourenço, Anita S.D. Gutierrez, Fabiana M. Abreu and Fabrício P. Gonçalves

Citation Postharvest Biology and Technology, Volume 47, Issue 3, March 2008, Pages 353-357

Keywords Postharvest diseases; *Prunus* spp.; Damage

Abstract

Mechanical injuries and diseases in stone fruit are important causes for market rejection. The objectives of this research were to quantify and characterize the mechanical injuries and diseases in peaches, nectarines and plums at São Paulo's wholesale market, the largest in Brazil. Incidence of injuries was assessed weekly in 1% of the marketed fruit (2973 fruit/week), from September to December in 2003 and 2004. Mechanical injuries were the most frequent injuries in both years, ranging from 8.73% (plum) to 44.5% (nectarine) of injured fruit. There was a significant positive correlation between the incidence of postharvest mechanical injuries and postharvest diseases. Incidence of postharvest diseases varied from 2.5% to 6.6%. *Cladosporium* rot (*Cladosporium* sp.) and brown rot (*Monilinia fructicola*) were the most frequent diseases, and were mostly detected in the apexes of nectarines and peaches. Aurora (peach), Sunraycer (nectarine) and Gulfblaze (plum) varieties were the most susceptible to injuries and diseases.