

Title Effects of calcium foliar fertilizer, with or without nitrogen, on fruit quality and postharvest life of rambutan

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Abstract

Rambutan (*Nephelium lappaceum* L.) fruit have a relatively short postharvest life mainly due to peel colour changing, weight loss and postharvest disease. Foliar fertilizers containing nitrogen (6% calcium, 6% nitrate and 23% amino acids at concentration of 10 g/ 20L of water) or without nitrogen (14% chelated calcium at concentration of 2.5 g/20L of water) was sprayed 1, 2 or 3 times (3 weeks interval) on a tree carrying fruit about 4 weeks old. *Trichoderma* spp. Was used as a basal spray to control fruit diseases. Fruit and peel weight, peel and flesh thickness and spintern length increased as the number of foliar sprays with nitrogen sources increased but decreased as the number of foliar spray without nitrogen source increased. Soluble solids content in the flesh was not affected by foliar sprays. Neither treatment influenced nitrogen concentration in peel and spinterns. Calcium concentrations in peel and spinterns increased as the number of foliar sprays increased, and were higher in fruit from trees sprayed with calcium without nitrogen than those sprayed by calcium with nitrogen. Applications of both types of foliar sprays extended postharvest life and reduced postharvest disease incidence of rambutan fruit especially three sprays were applied.