

Title Postharvest quality of 'Whangkeum' pear affected by preharvest fruit bagging
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Citation Abstracts of 27th International Horticultural Congress & Exhibition (IHC 2006), August 13-19, 2006, COEX (Convention & Exhibition), Seoul, Korea. 494 pages.
Keywords peel russet; preharvest bagging; postharvest quality; harvest date

Abstract

The 'Whangkeum' pear cultivar grown in Korea is a climacteric early harvested fruit, susceptible to physiological deterioration and peel disorder after harvest due mainly to desiccation and russet symptoms. The aim of this study was to predict optimum harvest time for the 'Whangkeum' pear for long-term storage. Fruit were placed into paraffin oil coated paper bags at 25, 40, 40, 50 days after full bloom (DAFB) and they were picked in different harvest dates. Pears were stored at 4°C and 20°C in 15 kg plastic boxes. Firmness and organic acids were higher in fruit bagged 25 DAFB and respiration rate was lower compared to fruit bagged at 40 and 50 DAFB. In multiple-harvest experiments with 'Whangkeum' pear, there was very little peel disorder representing russet symptoms in the fruit bagged at 25 DAFB while it occurred over the entire surface of non-bagged fruit.