

Title Evaluation of some essential oils as botanical fungitoxicants in management of post-harvest rotting of citrus fruits

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Abstract

During screening of some essential oils against *Penicillium italicum*, the oils of *Mentha arvensis*, *Ocimum canum* and *Zingiber officinale* were found to exhibit absolute fungitoxic activity against the test fungus. The oils were subsequently standardized through physico-chemical and fungitoxic properties. Practical applicability of the essential oils was observed in control of blue mould rot of oranges and lime fruits caused by *P. italicum* during storage. The Mentha oil-treated oranges and lime fruits showed enhancement of storage life of 6 and 8 days, respectively. The storage life of Ocimum oil-treated oranges and lime fruits was found to be enhanced by 6 days while in the case of Zingiber oil, it was 4 and 8 days enhancement of shelf life of oranges and lime fruits, respectively.