Title The influence of shading and leaf flushing on the ripening pattern of durians

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Abstract

Uneven fruit ripening is often found in large durians with thick pulp. It has been suggested that inadequate food supply during fruit development, either by external or internal factors, is the cause of this disorder. In order to prove this hypothesis, durians from both control and leaf flushing trees were compared. The fruits from leaf flushing trees were found to have a higher uneven fruit ripening score, as well as higher variation in pulp firmness and soluble solids content, as compared to those harvested from control trees. In addition, fruit from 50% shaded trees, at 99-105 DAA, was compared to fruit from normal trees. Higher uneven fruit ripening characteristics were found in durians from shaded trees. When durians were harvested again at 113 DAA, one week after removal of shading, durians from these trees had similar ripening characteristics to those from the control trees. Hence, it is concluded that any factor limiting fruit development could cause uneven ripening in durians. It was also found that treating durians with high concentrations of ethephon could not alleviate uneven fruit ripening symptoms.