

Title Ripening and post-harvest behaviour of two regional pineapple cultivars of the Amazonas region in Venezuela

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Keyword *Ananas comosus* var. *comosus*; cooled storage; fruit quality; harvest index

Abstract

The aim of this work was to evaluate soluble solids contents and titratable acidity and pH as characteristic features of fruit ripening of two pineapple cultivars ('Gobernadora' and 'Brasilera') produced in an indigenous community of Amazon State, Venezuela. In order to evaluate the post-harvest handling of fruits of the two cultivars in a comparative way, the index of suitable harvest was determined (Titratable acidity: 0.60-0.70 and Total Soluble Solids: 10-12°Brix). In addition, the subjective quality (external color) was determined in two simulated conditions of marketing: at temperature of 8°C and 75-80% of relative air humidity (RH) and at 29±3°C and 60-70% RH. Titratable acidity, pH and total soluble solids constituted indicators of maturity degree for harvest. The cooling treatment at 8°C and 75-80% RH allowed maintenance of the characteristics of commercial quality and a shelf life of 16 days. Most of the characteristics evaluated showed similarities in tendency and statistical differences between both cultivars.