

**Title** Evaluation of postharvest quality of strawberries in the southern region of Brazil  
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#### **Abstract**

New strawberry cultivars have been introduced recently in the southern region of Brazil. The refrigerated storage is used for fruits to reach market with good quality. The objective of this work was to evaluate postharvest characteristics of strawberry cultivars grown in the southern region of Brazil after refrigerated storage. 'Camino Real', 'Ventana' and 'Aromas' strawberries were cold stored for 3, 6 and 9 days at 0°C and 90-95% RH plus 1 day at 10°C. Fruit samples were analyzed for physical, chemical and sensorial quality at harvest and after each cold storage treatment. The data were analyzed with univariate (LSD test ( $p < 0.05$ )) and multivariate (Discriminant Stepwise and Factor Analysis) statistical tests. After 3 days of cold storage all cultivars presented good quality. After 6 days 'Camino Real' and 'Ventana' strawberries showed better quality than 'Aromas'. After 9 days all cultivars presented poor quality. Fruit flavor and appearance were the most important quality factors, and shape, soluble solids, appearance and color were the variables that better discriminated the cultivars.