

Title Changes in cell wall composition during development of persimmon fruit
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Abstract

Cell walls were isolated from persimmon (*Diospyrus kaki* L.) fruit pericarp, at four developmental stages. Isolated walls were analyzed for changes in the composition and solubility of constituent polysaccharides during development. Pectic polysaccharides decreased from approximately 20% of total wall polysaccharides during development stages. Decreases in uronic acid, arabinose and galactose were accompanied during development. The loss of polyuronides was also accompanied by a depolymerisation of the polysaccharides. Overall, the results indicate that major changes in cell wall polysaccharide composition occurred during softening of ripening.