

**Title** Application of compression force in monitoring firmness of 'Hayward' kiwifruit (*Actinidia deliciosa*)

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#### **Abstract**

Compression force (CF) of 'Hayward' kiwifruit (*Actinidia deliciosa* (A. Chev) C.F. Liang et A.R. Ferguson 'Hayward') was measured as the force required to compress a fruit by 1.5 mm using an 11 mm diameter round-tipped probe. CF declined in a similar manner to flesh firmness (FF, standard firmness measurement using a penetrometer). Under similar postharvest conditions, the relationship between CF and FF measured towards the end of storage approximated a linear function. Storage life calculated from an exponential model fitted to CF monitoring data was comparable to that calculated from FF data. Therefore, CF can be used as an alternative non-destructive measurement of FF for storage management, as well as scientific studies.