

**Title** Safe use of sodium metabisulfite in young coconuts  
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#### **Abstract**

Young coconuts are often presented after cutting parts of the white fibrous husk away. Such fruit rapidly turn brown and are susceptible to mold infection. Sodium metabisulfite (Sms) is commonly used to minimize these problems. Residues were found to be higher in younger fruit than in older ones. The Sms solution penetrated the nut's interior via air channels in the husk and through the soft eye. To avoid residues in the edible portion, this study recommends using coconuts that are at least 6 months old (after full bloom), minimally trimmed, and dipped in  $\leq 5\%$  Sms solution for  $\leq 5$  min.