

Title Management of post harvest smudge infections in onion through fungicides
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Citation Abstracts of 7th International Postharvest Symposium 2012 (IPS2012). 25-29 June, 2012. Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 238 pages.
Keywords onion; fungicide

Abstract

Onion is one of the important vegetable crops of India. In Karnataka state of India, onion farmers are facing severe post harvest losses due to infection of *Colletotrichum Spp.* The bulbs get infected in field and start rotting when carried to the storage units for drying. Since the infection is from field fungi which infect just prior to harvest and aggravate disease during storage, an experiment was conducted at Horticulture Research Station Devihosur, Haveri India, to minimize the losses in onion due to post harvest smudge/rotting by practicing fungicidal spray in the field before harvest. Seven different fungicides were tried to manage the disease. The results revealed that spraying of Hexaconazole (0.1 %), and Difenconazole (0.1%) have given best control of the disease in field as well as in storage. Normally onions are given fungicidal sprays at 30 and 60 days after sowing. However in the present study it was found that spraying fungicides at 40, 60 and 80 days after sowing was found effective. As onion is normally harvested after 90 days of sowing, spraying of fungicides especially at 80 days after sowing found to carry less field infection to storage and intern recorded significantly least smudge/rot in storage.