

Title Incorporation of organic fungicides in conventional packing process of banana (*Musaaaa* 'Williams')

Author C. Demerutis and L. Quirós

Citation ISHS Acta Horticulturae 906:171-176.2011.

Keywords banana; postharvest diseases; organic treatments; Biocto; Verdiol

Abstract

One of the main problems that the banana agro-industry faces in Costa Rica is the control of postharvest diseases. Molds are among the main agents that cause fruit rotting during transportation in refrigerated containers. The most widely used postharvest conventional treatment to prevent fungi and molds damages in banana, is the application of thiabendazole during the packing process. The increasing world-wide demand for fresh, healthy and safe products has created international standards of security for the exported fresh fruits that allow product traceability and pesticide reduction. Studies and own commercial experience by EARTH University show that the use of Biocto and Verdiol is a possible organic commercial alternative for postharvest disease control in banana. The purpose of the present work is to give the basic criteria to modify the conventional packing operations, when the use of chemical fungicides is replaced by organic ones, to maximize storage life for banana in a transitional packing process.