Title	Kloeckera apiculata strain (34-9) to control Botrytis cinerea during the pre- and
	postharvest handling of strawberries
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Abstract

The efficacy of *Kloeckera apiculata* strain (34-9) in controlling gray mould (*Botrytis cinerea*) of strawberry fruit was evaluated in pre- and postharvest handling. Dynamic growth of *K. apiculata* strain (34-9) was tested in the field on strawberry. Antagonist population was 2.2×10^6 CFU/ml in strawberry fruit after it was treated 2 h in the field, then decreased slightly, and then the population stabilized at the concentration 10^5 CFU/ml during the period of strawberry growth. The effect of *K. apiculata* strain (34-9) (1.0×10^8 CFU/ml) on *B. cinerea* was evaluated. Preharvest (34-9) treatment was the most effective, while postharvest (34-9) and Sumilex treatment equally reduced the incidence of decay, caused by gray moulds (*B. cinerea*). Light microscopy revealed attachment of the yeast cells to the pathogen hyphae.*Kloeckera apiculata* strain (34-9) did not alter any quality parameters of fruit when assessed at the end of storage.

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