

Horticultural maturity indices of breadnut (*Artocarpus camansi* Blanco) fruit

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Abstract

Studies were conducted during growth and development of the breadnut fruit (*Artocarpus camansi*) from weeks 6-12 after fruit set to identify parameters to establish indices of horticultural maturity. Breadnut fruit attained horticultural maturity with excellent cooking and eating quality when harvested between weeks 8-10 after fruit set, with fruit mass ranging from 718.6-1100.5 g and spine spacing concurrently decreasing from 30 to 23 per 3 cm². At horticultural maturity, breadnut fruit seeds were 2.6-2.8 cm in length, 2.2-2.5 cm in width and 64.6-70.9 g in mass with a milky-white soft seed testa having 'L' values of 82.7-85.7 and 'a/b' of 0.02-(-0.03). Breadnut fruit flesh and seed also had lower sugar levels between weeks 8-10 after fruit set compared to earlier or later periods. At the same time, flesh and seed dry matter percentages were 12.7-13.9 and 13.3-29.9%, respectively while percentage seed germination increased from 16.8% at week 8 to 98.8% at week 10.