

Pomological and fruit quality characteristics of early ripening peach and nectarine cultivars in Murcia (Spain)

J. Romeu, J. García-Brunton

Acta Horticulturae 962: 571-575. 2012.

Abstract

The cultivar adaptation to different zones is influenced by the behaviour of the tree in front of several environmental conditions. In this study, the behaviour in the Region of Murcia of 10 low chill cultivars has been assessed such as 'Red Candem', 'Flor Red', 'Flordastar', 'Suncoast', NIV 30/02 selection, NIV 10/03 selection, NIV 11/03 selection, '86/6' and 'Spring Crest' and 'Romea' with high chill requirement. Shoots characterisation, tracking phenology and the fruit quality (firmness, soluble solid, acidity parameters and SS/Ac index) have been carried out. Some differences have been seen between the cultivars in the bud density (fluctuating between 133,8 buds/m for NIV 10/03 and 53,5 buds/m for 'Spring Crest'), in the flower density (115,2 flowers/m for NIV 10/03 and 42,4 flowers/m for 'Red Candem') and in the blossom and harvest dates, clearly influenced by the temperatures and the difference in chill and heat requirement. In addition, our observations have shown differences in fruit quality for different pickings in most of the cultivars.