

Abstract:

Postharvest research activity in Canada is most active in regions with a large horticultural industry, i.e. primarily in temperate parts of the Atlantic Provinces, southern Quebec, southern Ontario and southern British Columbia. Governmental and university research institutions at many locations across the country conduct postharvest research whose focus reflects the crops and needs of each region. Most of the work is applied research in the major temperate horticultural tree fruit, small fruit and vegetable crops, from which a number of technologies have been developed and commercialized nationally and internationally. Fundamental research projects are also being conducted in the fields of biochemistry and molecular biology. There is no specialized training institute in Canada for postharvest biology and technology, but postharvest courses are taught at most universities having agricultural programmes.