Abstract:

This study was conducted to evaluate the relationships between the picking date and the evolution of the organoleptic traits during storage of the fruit of two cultivars of highbush blueberry, a mid-season and a mid-late season. Samples of berries were harvested at 3 different ripening stages (early, conventional, late) and cold stored in normal atmosphere (N.A.) for 8 weeks. At each picking date and once a week during storage, the following parameters were measured: weight loss, total soluble solids content (T.S.S.), titratable acidity (T.A.). Early picking is not suitable because the T.S.S. content does not increase during storage, while weight loss is quite relevant. A late harvest, convenient to reduce the number of pickings, is acceptable if the delay, compared to the conventional harvest date, does not exceed 3-4 days.