Abstract

GOLD Core Disorder can affect the internal appearance and taste of Hort16A fruit. Analysis of industry data collected at harvest over two seasons was used to gain more understanding about the incidence, severity and possible causes of the disorder. Spatial coordinates were used to group all Hortl6A orchards into specific geographic clusters. The influence of geography, season, and fruit development on the incidence of the disorder was then assessed. Incidence of the disorder was significantly different between geographic clusters over both growing seasons. These geographic differences may indicate a relationship between climate or soil type with the disorder. Closer examination of fruit development data found that date disorder is more likely to be associated with it harvested at a uglier flesh hue. Also orchards prone to the disorder tended to have a later flowering date and were harvested after a longer development time, when compared to orchards without the disorder. These findings suggest that the disorder could be associated with an interaction between climatic conditions at a critical stage of development.