Abstract

Postharvest decay causes losses to commercial pear industries. The incidence of decay in air and controlled-atmosphere (CA)-stored ‘d’Anjou’ pear fruit was investigated, and the effect of a prestorage thiabendazole drench on decay in CA-stored fruit was determined. In air storage, bull’s-eye rot (31.37%) was most prevalent in 1996, whereas incidence of gray and blue mold (1996 and 1997) and bull’s-eye rot (1997) were similar. Mucor, Alternaria, and Coprinus rot levels were low. Incidence of stem-end gray mold (2.58%) was significantly higher than calyx-end (0.73%) and puncture gray mold (0.61%). Incidence of gray mold (2.26%) was higher than all other decay in nondrenched CA-storage, and incidence of other decay types were similar. Incidence of puncture gray mold (1.13%) was higher than stem-end gray mold (0.84%), which in turn was higher than calyx-end gray mold (0.36%) in nondrenched CA-storage. Incidence of gray mold (1.04%) in CA-stored fruit was reduced by a prestorage thiabendazole drench. Drenching reduced stem-end (0.34%) and puncture gray mold (0.40%) but had no effect on all other decay or the total decay incidence. These results support the current recommendations of a single postharvest application of thiabendazole to control gray mold in ‘d’Anjou’ pear fruit.