

Title Effects of harvesting time and storage period on seedcoat color of common beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.)
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Citation Ciencia e Agrotecnologia Vol: 26 (2002); 550-558

Abstract

An experiment was conducted on bean cultivars ESAL 550, CI 128, and Carioca to determine the effects of harvesting time (15 days prior to and during the recommended harvesting period) and storage period (2, 4, 6, and 8 months) on seed coat colour, amount of phenolic compounds, and enzyme activity (peroxidase and polyphenoloxidase). Phenolic compound content and peroxidase activity were greater in seeds harvested 15 days prior to the recommended harvesting period. Peroxidase activity increased as storage time increased in ESAL 550, while it decreased in CI 128 and Carioca. Polyphenoloxidase activity increased during the storage period but there were no significant differences between the 2 harvesting dates. Darkening of seed coat colour in relation to storage period was due to peroxidase and polyphenoloxidase activities.