

Biochemical reactions in mechanically damaged peaches treated with CaCl_2 at the site of the injury.

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Citation Ciencia e Agrotecnologia Vol: 23 (1999); 658-666

Abstract

Fruits of peaches cv. Biuti were pierced with a 2-mm diameter metal spike at 4 equidistant points on the circumference and treated with water or CaCl_2 . Wounding increased activity of phenylalanine ammonia-lyase, polyphenoloxidase [catechol oxidase] and peroxidase, and lignin synthesis in cell walls. Application of CaCl_2 at the site of injury increased the concentration of bound Ca in cell walls, delayed the peaks in enzyme activity, stimulated synthesis of neutral sugars, and reduced the degree of esterification of cell wall pectins.