

Title Evaluation of some post-harvest characteristics and consumer acceptance index of new banana cultivars.

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Abstract

The banana cultivars Nam, Pioneira, Caipira, SH 3640, FHIA 01, FHIA 18, Mysore, Nanicao, Grande Naine, Maca, Prata and Prata Ana were evaluated based on their postharvest characteristics (postharvest longevity, marketing period and resistance to fruit dropping), visual aspects (fruit size and coloration of the peel and pulp) and consumer acceptance index through tasting of the ripe fruit (flavour, pulp firmness and similarity of flavour with the traditional cultivars Prata, Prata Ana, Maca and Nanicao). The study was conducted through laboratory trials by using six banana hands of each cultivar and interviews after the tasting tests with 80 consumers of Lavras and Maria da Fe, Minas Gerais, Brazil, during October 2000 to April 2001. With regards to the visual aspects, only the cultivar Caipira obtained a low consumer acceptance index (<50%). In the case of postharvest characteristics, the cultivars Prata Ana, Maca, Prata and SH 3640 stood out with the longest postharvest longevity and marketing period. Only the cultivar Mysore presented resistance to fruit dropping at the ideal consumption point while the cultivars Maca, Nam, Caipira and SH 3640 were fairly resistant and the others were non-resistant. The cultivars Prata, Maca, Prata Ana and SH-3640 recorded the highest consumer acceptance indices on the basis of flavour and aroma, and the cultivar Caipira the poorest. The cultivar SH 3640 was considered to have aroma and flavour similar to those of Prata and Prata Ana by 92.8% of the consumers and obtained about 45% of preference relative to these cultivars and 85% relative to Nanicao.