

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON
RIPENING REGULATION
AND
POSTHARVEST FRUIT QUALITY**

Convener

J. Streif

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FOREWORD

The international conference ‘Ripening Regulation and Postharvest Fruit Quality’ was organized within the framework of COST action 924 of the European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research. The aim of this COST action is the ‘Enhancement and Preservation of Quality and Health Promoting Components in Fresh Fruits and Vegetables’. In this context, the ‘Postharvest Physiology and Metabolics’ working group is engaged with the interaction of postharvest scenarios with biochemical and physiological processes. By an integrated approach it will be possible to elucidate the characteristics of bioactive compounds and to study their preservation during postharvest life under further optimized technological procedures.

This meeting mainly discussed the recent innovations in controlled atmosphere technology and/or the use of chemical ethylene inhibitors as new tools for influencing ripening and quality preservation in climacteric fruit, but also stressed preharvest hormonal influences of fruit development and ripening. The postharvest technologist can use these new technologies for slowing the deterioration in fresh produce, however, there remain many questions over how best to apply these developments to better meet consumer requirements.

Nearly all oral and poster presentations are published after peer review in this volume of *Acta Horticulturae*. We believe that it provides a selected survey of state of the art of postharvest research and will be a source of inspiration for further research in industry and academia.

The organisation of this conference would not have been possible without the financial support and sponsorship of COST, ISHS, Interreg IIIA, and several Agrobusiness companies. We have to thank also Dr. Franz Gasser and Dr. Ernst Höhn, ACW Wädenswil, Switzerland, for their assistance in organising the conference and all authors and reviewers for their valuable contributions.

Josef Streif
Convener

PREFACE

The papers contained in this volume of *Acta Horticulturae* report the Proceedings of the International Conference on Ripening Regulation and Postharvest Fruit Quality. Keynote speakers and authors of selected contributed oral and poster presentations were given the opportunity to submit a manuscript for publication.

The manuscripts were reviewed by the Editors and members of the Editorial Board. Only those papers judged suitable for publication following the authors’ consideration of reviewer suggestions appear in this volume of *Acta Horticulturae*.

The ISHS acknowledges and appreciates the contribution of all editors and reviewers. They have made a significant contribution to improving the quality of this publication.

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