



CLIMATE VARIABLES AND THEIR RELATION TO FRUIT QUALITY

QUALITY VARIABLE	Very Rainy/ Very Cool (cold for tropics) weeks 1-9 and weeks 46-52	Low Rainfall / Hot weeks 10-20	Rainy / Hot (with short dry spells) weeks 21-34	Low Rainfall / Very Hot weeks 35-45
BRIX	Cold weather slows growth and brix development. Harvest age must be increased to achieve best brix but heavy rains increase the risk of undesirable levels of translucency.	Much warmer days and lower rainfall provide conditions for desirable brix levels.	Conditions ideal for brix development and will be highest due to the harvest peak of natural fruit.	Conditions favor high brix development.
PSI	As brix levels drop, the consistency of the fruit increases and may be considered slightly hard.	As the brix increase, the consistency drops and this is the period of best consistency.	At the beginning of this period the consistency is normal but as brix increase it may reach critical levels during the period of natural fruit.	Period of normal, desirable consistency - similar to the low rainfall / hot period.
EXTERNAL (SHELL) COLOR	Due to excessive rain, lack of sun and low brix, it is very difficult to achieve good external color during this period.	Warmer days, less rain and higher brix usually permits the development of good shell color.	Conditions are favorable for the development of good shell color but when natural fruit is being harvested it's preferable to use low shell color to avoid translucency.	During this period of high temperatures and dry days it's also difficult to achieve good shell color but internal quality is very good.
INTERNAL COLOR	In this period it's difficult to obtain high yellow coloration.	Normal	Normal	Normal
LONG CROWN			Frequent from July to mid-August	
SHORT CROWN	Frequent (due to hot, dry days during formation.)	Frequent		Frequent
NDF	Period in which Natural fruit is induced due to low temperatures of air and soil and excessive rain.		Period in which natural fruit is harvested.	
CORCHOSIS (CONICAL FRUIT)	Frequent due to hot, dry days during the formation of the fruit.		Relatively Frequent	
SUN BURN		Frequent		
BASAL BROWNING	Due to heavy rains, the fruit sits in water causing external superficial browning of shell.		Occasionally during short periods of rain.	
INSECTS AND DISEASES	Frequent attacks of Thecla and Espodoptera with the development of Gomosis on the base of the fruit or small frequent scars on the peel.		Occasional attack of Thecla at the end of the rainy period with Basal Gomosis.	