

THE INFLUENCE OF HARVEST TIME ON JONATHAN AND GOLDEN DELICIOUS APPLE CULTIVARS STORAGE LIFE

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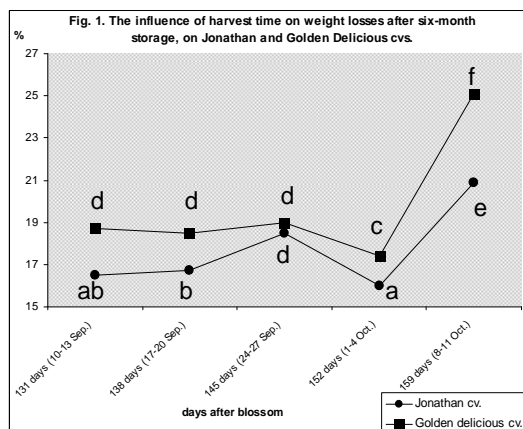
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Key words: apple, harvest time, storage life, soluble sugar, dry matter, acidity.

SUMMARY

The experiment was carried out during 2003-2005, at Fruit Research Station Bistrita. In Romania, the Jonathan and Golden delicious cultivars represent over 35% from the all cultivated cultivars (*Braniște et. al., 2004*). Immature fruits have a low quality and are very susceptible to some physiological disorders, like bitter-pit and scald, and the over mature fruits are susceptible to other physiological disorders, like water core and internal browning, all of these affecting the quality of fruits (*Blanpied and Smock, 1982; Kader, 2002*).

The objective was to determine the influence of harvest time on storage life on Jonathan and Golden delicious apple cultivars. The fruits were harvested at five moments, at a rate of 7 days, beginning with 10-13 September. The apple fruits were stored into chambers from the basement of building, where the temperature was between 3-9°C and the relative air humidity, 50-80%. After six-month storage, on both cultivars, the lowest weight losses were for the variant harvested in the period 1-4 October (16% on Jonathan cv. and 17.4% on Golden Delicious cv.), and the higher weight losses for the treatment harvested in the period 8-11 October (20.9% on Jonathan cv. and 25.1% on Golden Delicious cv.), for Bistrita area (Fig.



highest sugar/acidity ratio was found on fruits harvested in the period 8-11 October, at harvest and after storage time, too.

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