

AVOCADO FRUIT QUALITY AS INFLUENCED BY PREHARVEST CULTURAL PRACTICES

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The establishment and continuation of a long-term irrigation-fertilization study at Corona has provided an opportunity to study the possible impact of preharvest cultural practices on postharvest fruit performance. This project's objectives are to 1) substantiate whether irrigation practices (80,100 and 120% ET) influence the storage life of the 'Hass' avocado; 2) assess the impact of nitrogen fertilizer practices in conjunction with (1) on avocado fruit quality and 3) evaluate whether fruit maturity influences the response to either (1) or (2). Progress to Date. Fruit were harvested in February 1990 from the Corona plot. We plan to harvest again in June/July 1990. Fruit evaluations will include monitoring softening patterns before and after 5 C (41 F) storage, and subsequent development of chilling injury symptoms. Another major focus of this project is to evaluate the impact of cooling delays/high temperature on subsequent fruit quality. We will initiate this portion of the study in April 1990.