

# Evaluation of postharvest infiltration of calcium to delay the ripening of avocados

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## **Abstract**

Postharvest vacuum infiltration of calcium into mature but unripe Hass and Fuerte avocados obtained from 80 growers in the 3 major growing districts in Australia over 2 seasons delayed the time to ripen compared with untreated fruit; but the magnitude of the response varied. Hass fruit from 66% of growers in the Murray Valley showed a significant delay in ripening and the average increase in fruit from all growers was 45% over that of untreated fruit. The response of Fuerte fruit was similar between districts, with an average delay in ripening time of about 30% and with fruit from 60% of growers having a significant increase. Hass fruit from North Queensland and northern New South Wales gave the lowest average delay in ripening of about 10% and an increased delay was significant for fruit from 25% of growers. The quality of ripe Hass fruit was not affected by calcium infiltration, whereas a slight decrease in the quality of Fuerte fruit was observed.

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