

Panel 8. Postharvest Handling and Quality Control Panelist Biographies

Mary Lu Arpaia

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Mary Lu Arpaia joined the Dept. of Botany and Plant Sciences as an Extension Subtropical Horticulturist in 1983. She has worked on varied avocado projects since that time. She currently heads the avocado scion breeding program and also has projects dealing with avocado phenology and post-harvest management strategies.

Gawie Eksteen

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After completion of my Masters in Pomology, I started my research career and received a PhD on the post harvest physiology on internal breakdown in plums. During my 21 years with the Fruit and Fruit Technology Research Institute, I was involved in basic and applied research on post harvest and storage disorders of deciduous and subtropical fruits. Since 1986 I am responsible for all technical aspects related to the storage, transport and shipping of all perishable products from South Africa. This includes aspects of applied research on product requirements, technical specifications of equipment and designing and implementation of all systems related to the cold chain. My present position at the PPECB is General Manager: Technical Services.

Kerry Everett

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Dr Kerry Everett has been working as a plant pathologist firstly at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand on nursery crops for 4 years. She then studied for her PhD on sap transmissible viruses of flowering cherries, and since finishing in 1994 took a position as a scientist for HortResearch (The Horticulture and Research Institute of New Zealand Ltd). She has been working on avocado diseases in New Zealand ever since. Her research interests focus on understanding the infection process of the avocado fruit rot pathogens. She is also interested in biological control using antagonistic microorganisms, the effects of both cold and hot temperatures on the pathogenic fungi, and the effects of cultural practices on the incidence of rots in fruit. She has done some studies on the effect of breaking the cool chain on rot incidence and 'in vitro' fungicide testing. This year we are using some 'new' fungicides in the field and postharvest to optimize control of fungal fruit rots.

Dennis Margosan

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Dennis Margosan is a plant pathologist at the USDA Agricultural Research Service's Horticultural Crops Research Laboratory in Fresno, CA. He has worked at the USDA for 19 years on the control postharvest fungal diseases of almonds, citrus, grapes, stone fruit, and roses. He has a BS in Botany from UC, Davis and a MS in Plant Science - Agriculture from CSU, Fresno.

Edna Pesis

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My main interest is postharvest physiology and biochemistry of subtropical fruit including avocado, mango, date, guava and banana. My research work deals mainly with prevention of chilling injury (CI) which is the main problem in storage of subtropical fruit. In avocado I study how to extend storage life without causing peel and pulp damage. We want to succeed to keep avocado over one month in cold storage. We study the effect of abiotic stresses such as, anaerobiosis, heat, ethanol and acetaldehyde application to prevent ripening, decay development and CI symptoms by increasing antioxidants metabolites in the fruit. Lately I focus on the role of ethylene in accelerating CI symptoms in avocado.

Joseph L. Smilanick

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Joseph L. Smilanick is a Research Plant Pathologist with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service at the Horticultural Crops Research Laboratory in Fresno, California. He received a B.Sc. in Plant Science from UC Davis, a M. Sc. in Plant Pathology from Colorado State University, and a Ph. D. from UC Riverside in the same subject. Since joining the ARS in 1983, most of his research work has involved the biology and control of fungal postharvest pathogens on fresh fruit.

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Anne White (BSc) has worked in the postharvest group of HortResearch (Auckland, New Zealand) for 9 years. Her area of interest is postharvest handling of avocado, kiwifruit and apples, specializing in fruit maturation, ripening, storage quality and texture attributes. She has two refereed scientific papers and over 30 industry reports.

Allan Woolf

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Allan Woolf is from Auckland, NZ. He did his degree and PhD in horticulture at Massey University in Palmerston North. He has worked for 6 years for a Government owned but profit-making organization called HortResearch. He works in the postharvest group (one of the largest in the world) and his four areas of interest are heat responses, and general postharvest handling of avocado, persimmons and cut flowers.