

IMPORTANT POINTS TO BE NOTED

HARVEST

1. Harvest of horticultural produce at right stage of maturity is very essential for optimum quality and to maintain further its intact intrinsic quality for maximum returns and for attaining the longest post-harvest life
2. Importance of maturity indices:
 - Ensure sensory quality (flavor, color, aroma, texture) and nutritional quality.
 - Ensure an adequate postharvest shelf life.
 - Facilitate scheduling of harvest and packing operations and develop acceptable flavors or appearances and have a good shelf life
3. Delayed harvesting of fruit and vegetables can increase higher susceptibility to decay, resulting in higher postharvest loss.

Post-Harvest

1. Proper post-harvest care can add value and provide benefit to the producers and consumers and maintain freshness, nutrient content, taste and quality.
2. Both quantitative and qualitative losses occur at all stages in the post-harvest handling system of the distribution chain of perishables (from harvesting, through handling, packing, storage and transportation to final delivery of the fresh produce to the consumer).