

**Title** Quality parameters changes during fruit development and their relationship with optimum harvest maturity for big top and perfect delight nectarine cultivars

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**Keyword** Nectarine; storage; maturity

### **Abstract**

The objective of this study was to determine to changes of quality fruit of Big Top and Perfect Delight nectarine cultivars grown in Mersin (Tarsus/Yenice). Fruits were obtained from trees grafted on GF-677 rootstock and planted 3x5 m in orchard of Uni Tarm. Fruit width, length and height, weight, weight/diameter, skin and flesh color, fruit flesh firmness, total soluble solid (TSS), titratable acidity (TA), juice pH and TSS/TA were measured on fruits sample collected from tagged trees from after thinning in period of small fruit to ripening at a 7-15 days interval during fruit development. Data indicated that fruit flesh firmness, TSS, TSS/TA, skin color especially a\* value of CIE L\*a\*b\* and weight/diameter were important criteria in determining optimum harvest maturity. Based on the all criteria, the period the second and the third weeks of June was the optimum harvest time for Big Top and Perfect Delight cultivars in order to deliver fruit at optimum commercial maturity and quality and to obtain adequate storage time.