

Evaluation of the use of prochloraz in the control of postharvest diseases of papaya in Australia

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Acta Horticulturae 1022: 133-142. (2014)

Abstract

Prochloraz as Sportak[®] at 450 g a.i./L is registered for the control of postharvest diseases in papaya in Australia. A project in far north Queensland in 2011, examined the use patterns of postharvest treatments, evaluated treatment dips and sprays for prochloraz concentrations and evaluated the efficacy of prochloraz at 0, 20, 40, 55 and 70 ml/100 L, fludioxonil as Scholar[®] at 260 ml/100 L and azoxystrobin as Amistar[®] at 50 ml/100 L. Results showed that packing shed use of Sportak[®] varied with recycled and stored solutions showing a depletion of the active ingredient. Measured prochloraz in solution was highly pH dependent with nominal solution values only being measured when the pH was less than 3.0. In the fungicide efficacy trial Sportak[®] at the label rate of 55 ml/100 L provided more effective disease control than fludioxonil and azoxystrobin. The trial also suggested that fruit from older trees showed a high degree of disease incidence relative to fruit from young trees.