

# Supply Chain Success: Fruit Quality

## MAXIMISE YOUR STORAGE POTENTIAL

Fruit quality testing is essential to know when to pick your fruit and to achieve its best storage life. Having a consistent and predictable fruit quality standard in market improves outcomes for you as a grower and for the summer fruit industry.

- A ten-fruit sample per harvest is recommended for peaches and nectarines
- Avoid picking fruit with a bright green background - this fruit is immature and will not ripen in storage
- Small speckles on the crown of a nectarine are sugar spots and signal particularly sweet fruit
- While colour and sweetness are important, they are not a good measurement of harvest maturity and should only be considered part of the story
- Harvest maturity and flesh firmness are the most critical to get right, and specifications are variety specific
  - Harvest maturity is measured using a Rubens or DA meter and is measured in IAD
  - Flesh Firmness is measured using a Rubens or penetrometer and is measured in kg/cm<sup>2</sup>

## CONSISTENCY AND HONESTY ARE KEY

Randomly selecting fruit across the orchard block so that the sample is a true representation of the harvest. Selecting only the best fruit from your bins, or biased data may lead to reduced profitability and reputation damage to all summer fruit growers

### COLOUR

	PREMIUM EXPORT	MINIMUM EXPORT	MINIMUM DOMESTIC
BLUSH (%)	>70%	>40%	>20%

### SWEETNESS

	PREMIUM EXPORT	MINIMUM EXPORT	MINIMUM DOMESTIC
BRIX (%)	>14%	>11%	>10%

For further information visit the Horticulture Industry Networks site: <https://hin.com.au/networks/profitable-stonefruit-research>

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