

EFFECT OF SOME PREVENTIVE METHODS ON REDUCTION  
OF POSTHARVEST LOSSES OF MANGO  
(CULTIVAR : KARTHAKOLOMBAN)

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Since postharvest losses account for considerable amount from total mango production in Sri Lanka, investigation of preventive methods to reduce postharvest losses is of great importance.

An experiment was conducted to study the effect of some preventive methods on reduction of postharvest losses in mango, using fruits of cultivar Karthakolomban. Preventive methods examined in this study consisted of covering with perforated polythene bags, coating with edible wax and immersing in hot water (50-55°) for 10-12 minutes, with a control. After applying treatments, fruits were stored under ambient conditions. Weight loss (due to dehydration and due to diseases), ethylene production and changes in appearance, softness and pulp colour were observed at regular intervals during storage of 10 days.

Fruits covered with polythene lost 2.36% weight due to dehydration and fruits coated with wax lost 4.0%, whereas fruits with hot water treatment lost 10.6%. Weight loss due to diseases was minimum in fruits immersed in hot water, indicating the effectiveness of this treatment to control postharvest pathogens.

Although these methods have the potential to increase the postharvest life of fruits, their quality was badly affected by them. Preventive methods resulted in changes in appearance, softness and produced dull pulp colour.