

B-65: Maturity determination of "Kolikuttu" bananas with special reference to a physiological disorder referred to as finger fall

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At present, the "Kolikuttu" variety banana is harvested approximately 13 weeks after flowering. Heave loss may be observed due to finger fall during rapid ripening of fruits harvested at this stage of maturity and under present handling procedures. This study was initiated to correlate the stage of maturity at which fruits may be harvested with the incidence of finger fall.

Samples of bananas were harvested weekly from the 10th to the 13th week after the initial opening of the flower. Fruits were tested for physicochemical parameters. Finger weight, diameter and firmness were recorded together with pH, total soluble solids and titratable acidity of the pulp. Growth of fruits continued over this period, while no difference in physicochemical parameters were observed between the 12th and 13th week. The percentage finger fall in 11, 12 and 13 week bunches was 8%, 15% and 40% respectively.

Thus, loss due to finger fall may be reduced without loss of quality when fruits are harvested 11 or 12 weeks after flowering.