

DECCO IBÉRICA Post-Cosecha, S.A.

Technical Circular nº 2

2009/2010 Citrus Season

WATER MARK ON NAVELINES

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The technical circular about water marks on navelines has existed for several years, but we believe is necessary to repeat it this year as there are still clients that do not usually identify this type of problem (see photographs for this season at the end of this Circular).

It is worth pointing out that in the 07/08 season, this problem started to occur at the beginning of November. In the last season, the same as the current one, it was first noticed in mid October or even in fruit harvested some days before.

The presence of this alteration is directly related to variations in the hydric state of the peel, which are affected by climatic conditions such as heavy or prolonged rain, dew or sudden changes in the atmospheric humidity before or during harvest.

This problem is provoked by an excess of water in the glandular level of the fruit's surface. Heavy rains and significant dews increase the turgidity of the peel, which, once degreened, leads to the collapse and breakage of the oil glands and the subsequent appearance of a stain.

The stain is very characteristic and only affects the epidermis of the fruit, which takes on a greyish ton with a metallic look (similar to that provoked by trips) which can end up covering a large surface area of the fruit affected. Normally the stain is observed more frequently in the area close to the peduncle, where water accumulates from rain and dew, and from where it spreads across the surface. It can also appear in trickles.



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To avoid the appearance of this alteration, the following is recommended:

- In those fields that have been flooded or suffered heavy precipitations, fruit should not be harvested until it has acquired sufficient color for treatment without degreening.
- Do not harvest fruit that has been in contact with the ground, or that has fallen or that comes off easily when being harvested.
- Allow a period of 20 days to pass between heavy rains and harvesting.
- After being treated in the drencher, allow the fruit to dry before degreening.

If you have any further questions regarding the subject, do not hesitate to contact our specialist in your area or send an e-mail to decco@decco-web.com

DECCO Technical Service

October 23th, 2009



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