

Determination of maturity indices of bitter gourd (Mormordica charantia) Variety, MC 43

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Harvesting of crops at incorrect stage of maturity leads to serious quantitative and qualitative losses. Harvesting too early results in incomplete use of the yield potential. Delaying in harvesting results in losses due to abscission and softening and also, shortening of shelf life, reduced storage and increased internal disorders. However, the maturity indices of most local vegetable varieties have not been identified yet for practical use.

During the year 2002, The IPHT initiated a project to determine the maturity indices of selected economically important crops, in which the indices have not been previously determined.

Under this project, a study to determine the subjective and objective indices to identify the correct stage of maturity for harvesting of Bitter gourd variety MC 43 and their effect on quantity and quality of yield and shelf life was successfully completed. The results reveal that the Bitter gourd variety MC 43 harvested at 14 days after full bloom had a significant influence on the yield and the keeping quality of pods.