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Postharvest fungicide treatments for control of penicilium storage rot of pears

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A trial has been concluded at Karragullen. Packham pears were picked and treated by dipping in solutions for 1 minute in February/March 1988. They were then cool-stored and 50 fruit from each replicate assessed for incidence of Penicillium expansum rots in January 1989. The results are shown in the table below.

Table 1. Incidence of P. expansum fruit rot in stored Packham pears

Treatment	Percentage infected fruit (means of 4 reps)	
	Graded same day	Graded 10-14 days after treatment
Control	4.5	3.0
Ethoxyquin (E) only	6.5	4.0
E + Benlate (benomyl) (B) (100 g/L)	1.0	0.5
E + B (50 g/L)	0.0	1.5
E + Rovral (iprodione) (R) (100 g/L)	3.0	3.0
E + B + R	0.5	0.0
E + B (50 g/L) + R (50 g/L)	0.0	2.0
E + B + Fungaflor (imazalil) (F)	1.5	0.5
DPA (D) only	5.0	7.0
D + B (100 g/L)	0.5	0.5
D + B (50 g/L)	1.0	0.0
D + R	2.0	3.0
D + B + R	0.0	0.0
D + R + F	4.0	0.5
Control (early pick)	0.0	39.0
Control (late pick)	1.5	5.0

Comments:

1. Infection levels, with the exception of the early picked late-graded treatment were lower than last season. This was probably partly due to cool-rooms, floor areas and boxes being sterilised before picking commenced.
2. Late-graded, early-picked fruit had the highest level of infection.
3. Fungicide treatments resulted in lower levels of infection than treatments which did not incorporate a fungicide.
4. There was no consistent effect of time of grading on level of infection.