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Effect of packaging materials and ethylene absorbent on shelf life attributes of guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) cv. Arka Kiran

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Abstract

Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) which belongs to the family Myrtaceae (2n=22) is cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions of the world. Guava is a commercial crop grown in tropical India and well-known for its delectable flavour, taste and other sensory properties. Guava being a highly perishable fruit, undergoes rapid post-harvest ripening in few days under ambient conditions. The present investigation was carried out to study the effect of packaging materials and ethylene absorbent on shelf life attributes of guava cv. Arka Kiran at Post-harvest laboratory, College of Horticulture, SKLTSHU, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. The freshly harvested guava fruits were packed in different packaging materials along with and without ethylene absorbents and stored in ambient (28 ± 2 °C) and refrigerated (8 ± 1 °C) storage conditions. The fruits packed in HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) 50 microns with ethylene absorbent and kept in refrigerated temperature was found to be best of all the treatments with a shelf life of 21.01 days followed by fruits stored in PP (Polypropylene) 50 microns with ethylene absorbent and refrigerated temperature with shelf life of 20.88 days.

Keywords: Guava, packaging material, ethylene absorbent, storage conditions, shelf life, HDPE

Introduction

Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) is also known as 'apple of tropics' and 'poor man's apple' which originated from Tropical America and belongs to family Myrtaceae. Guava is a commercial crop grown in tropical India which is well-known for its delectable flavour, taste and other sensory properties. Guava is the fourth most important commercial fruit in area and production after mango, banana and citrus in India (Kiran *et al.*, 2020) [12]. Guava crop cultivated in India with an area of 315 thousand hectares, production of 4916 thousand metric tons and productivity of 15.6 metric tons per hectare (NHB, 2021-22) [15]. In India, major guava producing states are Maharashtra, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. Guava is highly demanding fruit year round for its fresh and processed produce and due to its tastiness and health-promoting qualities such as ascorbic acid (260 mg/100g) and dietary fiber (63.94 g/100 g) (Pedapati and Tiwari, 2014) [18].

Post-harvest quality conservation of guava is still a challenge in the production chain due to the minimized post-harvest life attributed to its rapid respiratory rate, quick loss of firmness and Prevalance of decay during storage (Forato *et al.*, 2015) [7].

Having a climacteric fruit-typed respiration and ethylene peak during ripening, quality of guava fruit is rapidly degraded due to its high metabolic activities, respiration and transpiration rates, which persists at post-harvest and cause losses in texture and quality features throughout storage (Kanwal *et al.* 2016) [10]. Thus, high levels of post-harvest losses of guava can be overcome by proper harvesting, post-harvest handling, cold chain management and using proper packaging and storage technology.

Ethylene inhibition or its removal should be used to maintain post-harvest quality. Ethylene absorbents usually contain potassium permanganate (oxidizing agent), which oxidizes ethylene to acetaldehyde, which is then converted to acetic acid. Further oxidation of acetic acid releases water and carbon dioxide (Gaikwad *et al.*, 2020) [8]. The packaging of fruits in polyethylene films which creates a modified environment that reduces dehydration and maintains freshness of the fruits (Kaur *et al.*, 2013) [11]. High-density polyethylene (HDPE) is stronger, thicker, less flexible and more brittle than LDPE simultaneously better barrier to gases and moisture. Low-density polyethylene (LDPE) is softer and more flexible and has good moisture barrier.

LDPE has a low melting temperature, 105-115 °C, so it is a useful material for heat sealing (Jena *et al.*, 2019) [9]. Polypropylene (PP) is also used as a packaging material of fruits. It is a good water vapour barrier and has higher melting temperature than polyethylene (Nath *et al.*, 2012) [14]. In recent years, biodegradable non-plastic films have prospective to be used as packaging materials for fruits. Hence, use of ethylene absorbant and storing fruits in different packaging materials will postpone the untimely climacteric process (Yildirim *et al.*, 2018) [22].

Materials and Methods

The experiment was carried out on Post-harvest Laboratory, College of Horticulture, Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad during the year 2021- 2022. Guava fruits (cv. Arka Kiran) used for the research experiment were procured from orchard in Mojerla village, Mahabubnagar district, Telangana. The freshly harvested guava fruits were packed in different packaging materials along with and without ethylene absorbants (@ 5 g KMnO₄ per kg of fruit) and stored in ambient (28 ± 2 °C) and refrigerated (8 ± 1°C) storage conditions.

The experiment was conducted in two factor completely randomized design with three replications. Factor one includes nine treatments: P₁ - LDPE with ethylene absorbant, P₂ - LDPE without ethylene absorbant, P₃ - HDPE with ethylene absorbant, P₄ - HDPE without ethylene absorbant, P₅ - PP with ethylene absorbant, P₆ - PP without ethylene absorbant, P₇ - Biodegradable bags with ethylene absorbant, P₈ - Biodegradable bags without ethylene absorbant, P₉ - Control and factor two includes two storage conditions: S₁ - Ambient temperature and S₂ - Refrigerated temperature.

Physiological loss in weight (PLW) (%)

The initial weight of the fruit in each treatment was noted. The final weight was observed at every three days interval during the storage. The physiological loss in weight was expressed in percentage and calculated by using the following formula:

$$PLW (\%) = \frac{\text{Initial weight of the fruit} - \text{final weight of the fruit}}{\text{Initial weight of the fruit}} \times 100$$

Spoilage (%)

The number of fruits spoiled in each treatment was counted and expressed in percentage. Spoilage percentage was calculated by following formula:

$$\text{Spoilage} (\%) = \frac{\text{Number of spoiled fruits}}{\text{Total number of fruits}} \times 100$$

Shelf Life (days)

The number of days the fruits remained in good condition in storage was utilized to estimate the fruit's shelf life. In that particular treatment, the end of the shelf life was defined as the point at which more than 50% of the kept fruits became unfit for consumption and was expressed as a mean number of days (Padmaja and Bosco, 2014) [16].

Fruit firmness (kg/cm²)

The firmness of the fruits was recorded by using a penetrometer which measures the penetration force and was

expressed in terms of kg/cm².

Surface Colour Measurement (DA meter)

The surface colour of the fruit was measured by using DA meter which was developed by Prof. Costa's team from the University of Bologna. It is a tool that makes it possible to measure the amount of chlorophyll in a fruit due to its absorbent qualities. The DA is an index of the chlorophyll in fruit and as a consequence, of its ripeness state. This index loses its value as the fruit ripens, obtaining a very low value at the point at which the ripening is complete.

Results and Discussion

Physiological Loss in Weight (%)

Physiological loss in weight (%) of the fruits was increased during the storage conditions (Table 1). The constant loss of moisture through fruit transpiration and respiration could be the reason for increase in PLW during the storage conditions (Mir *et al.*, 2018) [13].

Fruits stored in S₂ - refrigerated temperature was recorded considerably lower PLW (0.94%), (2.03%) and (3.07%) on 3rd, 6th and 9th day, while fruits kept in S₁ - ambient temperature had the highest PLW (3.51%), (6.15%) and (6.84%) on the 3rd, 6th and 9th day respectively. With respect to interactions, P₃S₂ - HDPE with ethylene absorbant + refrigerated temperature recorded least PLW (0.83%), (1.83%) and (2.43%) on 3rd, 6th and 9th day respectively.

Guava fruits stored under ambient temperature were discarded due to spoilage after 9th day of storage. The fruits stored in refrigerated temperature packed in HDPE with ethylene absorbant (P₃S₂) recorded significantly lowest PLW (3.58%), (4.64%), (5.81%) and (7.59%) on 12th, 15th, 18th and 21st day respectively.

Fruits packed in high density polyethylene (HDPE) with ethylene absorbant and stored in refrigerated temperature had recorded the minimum PLW. This might be due to the water loss reduction in fruits and lower accumulation of ethylene inside the packages (Silva *et al.* 2009) [21]. The results obtained are in close conformity with those results of Akhtar *et al.* (2012) [1] in loquat fruits.

Spoilage (%)

The synergistic impact of different packaging materials and storage conditions of guava (cv. Arka Kiran) fruits on spoilage (%) is presented in the table 2. Guava fruits stored in S₁ - ambient temperature packed in HDPE with ethylene absorbant (P₃S₁) recorded significantly minimum spoilage of (0.0%), (23.33%) and (31.67%) on 3rd, 6th and 9th day respectively whereas control fruits recorded maximum spoilage percentage.

The fruits stored under ambient temperature were discarded due to spoilage after 9th day of storage, while in refrigerated conditions did not shown spoilage percent upto 9 days. The fruits stored in refrigerated temperature packed in HDPE with ethylene absorbant (P₃S₂) recorded significantly least spoilage of (6.67%), (16.67%) and (28.33%) on 15th, 18th and 21st day respectively.

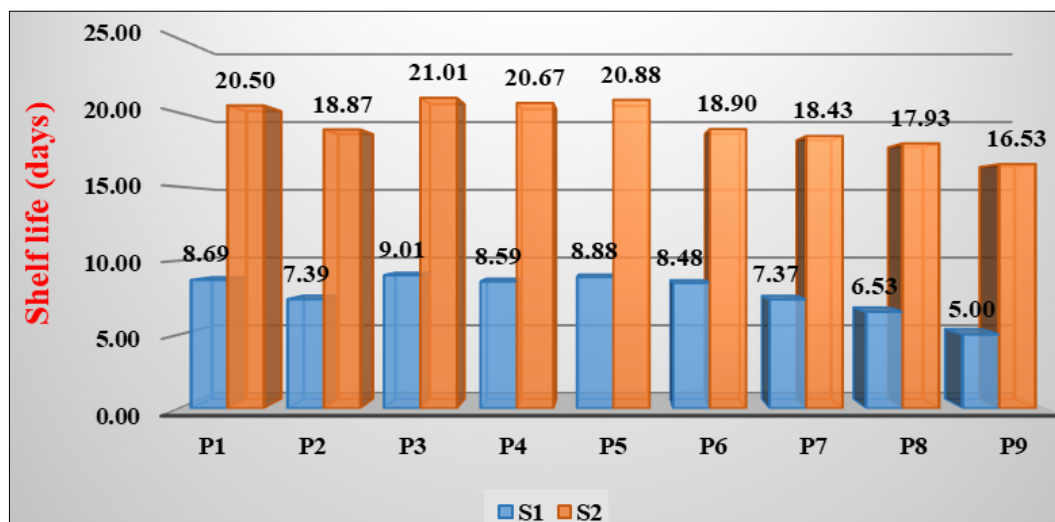
Fruits packed in high density polyethylene (HDPE) with ethylene absorbant and stored in refrigerated temperature was observed the least spoilage percent. This might be due to reduced respiration, transpiration and ethylene production. The results are in conformity to the findings of Elzubeir *et al.* (2017) [6] in mango and Rammohan *et al.* (2017) [19] in banana fruits.

Shelf Life (days)

The synergistic impact of different packaging materials and storage conditions of guava (cv. Arka Kiran) fruits on shelf life (days) is presented in the fig. 1.

The highest shelf life (21.01 days) was observed in P₃S₂ - HDPE with ethylene absorbant + refrigerated temperature and it was found to be par with P₅S₂ - PP with ethylene absorbant

+ refrigerated temperature (20.88 days) and P₉S₁ (control + ambient temperature) was recorded least shelf life (5.00 days). The polyethylene bags and ethylene absorbants had maintained the quality of fruits during the storage conditions. The similar findings were reported by Ali *et al.* (2015)^[2] in apricot and Pattar *et al.* (2021)^[17] in jamun fruits.



P₁ - LDPE with ethylene absorbant; P₂ - LDPE without ethylene absorbant; P₃ - HDPE with ethylene absorbant; P₄ - HDPE without ethylene absorbant; P₅ - PP with ethylene absorbant; P₆ - PP without ethylene absorbant; P₇ - Biodegradable bags with ethylene absorbant; P₈ - Biodegradable bags without ethylene absorbant; P₉ - Control. S₁ - Ambient temperature; S₂ - Refrigerated temperature.

Fig 1: Effect of different packaging materials with ethylene absorbant on Shelf Life (days) of guava cv. Arka Kiran at different storage conditions

Firmness (kg/cm²)

Firmness of guava fruits showed decreasing tendency with increase in storage period was given in the table 3. Reduction in fruit firmness during the storage was due to increased rates of respiration and ethylene evolution of fruits (Sharma *et al.*, 2012)^[20].

Fruits stored in S₂ - refrigerated temperature observed significantly higher levels of firmness (8.11, 7.69 and 7.26 kg/cm²) on 3rd, 6th and 9th day whereas fruits kept in S₁ - ambient temperature had the lowest firmness (6.49, 5.35 and 4.79 kg/cm²) on 3rd, 6th and 9th day respectively. In terms of interactions, P₃S₂ - HDPE with ethylene absorbant + refrigerated temperature recorded highest firmness (8.63, 8.23 and 7.93 kg/cm²) on 3rd, 6th and 9th day respectively.

Guava fruits stored under ambient temperature were discarded due to spoilage after 9th day of storage. The fruits stored in Refrigerated temperature packed in HDPE with ethylene absorbant (P₃S₂) recorded significantly highest firmness (7.80, 6.87, 5.87 and 4.53 kg/cm²) on 12th, 15th, 18th and 21st day respectively.

Fruits packed in high density polyethylene (HDPE) with ethylene absorbant and stored in refrigerated temperature had recorded the highest firmness. These polyethylene packaging materials and ethylene absorbant had reduced the water loss and fruit ripening during the storage. The similar findings were reported by Azene *et al.* (2011)^[3] in papaya and Dhakal

et al. (2021)^[5] in banana fruits.

Surface Colour Measurement (DA meter)

The synergistic impact of different packaging materials and storage conditions of guava (cv. Arka Kiran) fruits on surface colour measurement is presented in the table 4.

With respect to storage conditions, maximum surface colour measurement was observed in S₂ - refrigerated temperature (1.98), (1.94) and (1.89) on 3rd, 6th and 9th day whereas minimum surface colour measurement was observed in S₁ - ambient temperature with (1.93), (1.83) and (1.75) on 3rd, 6th and 9th day respectively. Among interactions, P₃S₂ - HDPE with ethylene absorbant + refrigerated temperature recorded highest surface colour measurement (2.04), (2.01) and (1.97) on 3rd, 6th and 9th day respectively.

Guava fruits stored under ambient temperature were discarded due to spoilage after 9th day of storage. The fruits stored in refrigerated temperature packed in HDPE with ethylene absorbant (P₃S₂) recorded significantly highest surface colour measurement (1.92), (1.87), (1.80) and (1.75) on 12th, 15th, 18th and 21st day respectively.

Fruits packed in high density polyethylene (HDPE) with ethylene absorbant and stored in refrigerated temperature was observed the maximum surface colour. The results obtained are in close conformity with those results of Carrilo *et al.* (2003)^[4] in pear fruits.

Table 1: Effect of different packaging materials with ethylene absorbant on Physiological Loss in Weight (%) of guava cv. Arka Kiran at different storage conditions

Physiological Loss in Weight (%)																	
	3 rd day			6 th day			9 th day			12 th day		15 th day		18 th day		21 st day	
	S ₁	S ₂	Mean	S ₁	S ₂	Mean	S ₁	S ₂	Mean	S ₁	S ₂	S ₁	S ₂	S ₁	S ₂	S ₁	S ₂
P ₁	2.91	0.87	1.89	5.23	1.88	3.56	7.08	2.72	4.90	*	3.75	*	4.83	*	6.01	*	7.73
P ₂	3.10	0.93	2.02	6.83	1.99	4.41	*	4.41	-	*	3.98	*	4.99	*	6.18	*	*
P ₃	2.71	0.83	1.77	5.16	1.83	3.50	6.25	2.43	4.34	*	3.58	*	4.64	*	5.81	*	7.59
P ₄	2.97	0.86	1.92	5.22	1.87	3.55	6.85	2.53	4.69	*	3.60	*	4.75	*	6.03	*	7.77
P ₅	2.94	0.86	1.90	5.33	1.92	3.63	7.17	2.64	4.91	*	3.75	*	4.94	*	6.13	*	7.89
P ₆	3.17	0.89	2.03	7.05	1.96	4.51	*	2.84	-	*	4.02	*	5.12	*	6.96	*	*
P ₇	3.16	0.95	2.06	6.98	2.02	4.50	*	3.00	-	*	4.22	*	5.96	*	7.29	*	*
P ₈	4.12	1.06	2.59	7.41	2.23	4.82	*	3.34	-	*	4.86	*	6.05	*	7.86	*	*
P ₉	6.48	1.16	3.82	*	2.54	-	*	3.72	-	*	5.06	*	7.12	*	*	*	*
Mean	3.51	0.94		6.15	2.03		6.84	3.07		-	4.09	-	5.38	-	6.53	-	7.74
	3 rd day			6 th day			9 th day			12 th day		15 th day		18 th day		21 st day	
	S.E.m ±	CD at 5%	S.E.m ±	CD at 5%	S.E.m ±	CD at 5%	S.E.m ±	CD at 5%	S.E.m ±	CD at 5%	S.E.m ±	CD at 5%	S.E.m ±	CD at 5%	S.E.m ±	CD at 5%	
P	0.020	0.058	0.012	0.034	0.008	0.023	0.008	0.022	0.010	0.027	0.007	0.020	0.009	0.026			
S	0.010	0.027	0.006	0.016	0.004	0.011	0.004	0.011	0.005	0.013	0.003	0.009	0.004	0.012			
P x S	0.029	0.082	0.017	0.049	0.011	0.033	0.011	0.032	0.014	0.039	0.010	0.028	0.013	0.037			

*- end of shelf life

P₁ - LDPE with ethylene absorbant;

P₂ - LDPE without ethylene absorbant;

P₃ - HDPE with ethylene absorbant;

P₄ - HDPE without ethylene absorbant;

P₅ - PP with ethylene absorbant;

P₆ - PP without ethylene absorbant;

P₇ - Biodegradable bags with ethylene absorbant;

P₈ - Biodegradable bags without ethylene absorbant; P₉ - Control.

S₁ - Ambient temperature;

S₂ - Refrigerated temperature.

Table 2: Effect of different packaging materials with ethylene absorbant on Spoilage (%) of guava cv. Arka Kiran at different storage conditions

Spoilage (%)																	
	3 rd day			6 th day			9 th day			12 th day		15 th day		18 th day		21 st day	
	S ₁	S ₂	Mean	S ₁	S ₂	Mean	S ₁	S ₂	Mean	S ₁	S ₂	S ₁	S ₂	S ₁	S ₂	S ₁	S ₂
P ₁	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.67	0.00	13.33	33.33	0.00	16.67	*	0.00	*	8.33	*	18.33	*	33.33
P ₂	5.00	0.00	2.50	31.67	0.00	15.83	*	0.00	0.00	*	6.67	*	11.67	*	23.33	*	*
P ₃	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.33	0.00	11.67	31.67	0.00	15.83	*	0.00	*	6.67	*	16.67	*	28.33
P ₄	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.67	0.00	13.33	36.67	0.00	18.33	*	0.00	*	10.00	*	21.67	*	35.00
P ₅	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	12.50	38.33	0.00	19.17	*	0.00	*	8.33	*	21.67	*	36.67
P ₆	6.67	0.00	3.33	28.33	0.00	14.17	*	0.00	-	*	8.33	*	11.67	*	23.33	*	*
P ₇	6.67	0.00	3.33	31.67	0.00	15.83	*	0.00	-	*	8.33	*	16.67	*	28.33	*	*
P ₈	8.33	0.00	4.17	36.67	0.00	18.33	*	0.00	-	*	10.00	*	16.67	*	36.67	*	*
P ₉	21.67	0.00	10.83	*	0.00	0.00	*	0.00	-	*	11.67	*	28.33	*	*	*	*
Mean	5.37	0.00		28.75	0.00		35.00	0.00		5.00	-	13.15	-	23.75	-	33.33	
	3 rd day			6 th day			9 th day			12 th day		15 th day		18 th day		21 st day	
	S.E.m ±	CD at 5%	S.E.m ±	CD at 5%	S.E.m ±	CD at 5%	S.E.m ±	CD at 5%	S.E.m ±	CD at 5%	S.E.m ±	CD at 5%	S.E.m ±	CD at 5%	S.E.m ±	CD at 5%	
P	0.56	1.59	0.73	2.11	0.56	1.59	0.56	1.59	0.79	2.25	0.79	2.25	0.56	1.59			
S	0.26	0.75	0.35	0.99	0.26	0.75	0.26	0.75	0.37	1.06	0.37	1.06	0.26	0.75			
P x S	0.79	2.25	1.04	2.98	0.79	2.25	0.79	2.25	1.11	3.19	1.11	3.19	0.79	2.25			

*- end of shelf life

P₁ - LDPE with ethylene absorbant;

P₂ - LDPE without ethylene absorbant;

P₃ - HDPE with ethylene absorbant;

P₄ - HDPE without ethylene absorbant;

P₅ - PP with ethylene absorbant;

P₆ - PP without ethylene absorbant;

P₇ - Biodegradable bags with ethylene absorbant;

P₈ - Biodegradable bags without ethylene absorbant; P₉ - Control.

S₁ - Ambient temperature;

S₂ - Refrigerated temperature

Table 3: Effect of different packaging materials with ethylene absorbant on Firmness (kg/cm²) of guava cv. Arka Kiran at different storage conditions

Firmness (kg/cm ²)																	
	3 rd day			6 th day			9 th day			12 th day		15 th day		18 th day		21 st day	
	S ₁	S ₂	Mean	S ₁	S ₂	Mean	S ₁	S ₂	Mean	S ₁	S ₂	S ₁	S ₂	S ₁	S ₂	S ₁	S ₂
P ₁	6.80	8.57	7.68	5.60	8.13	6.87	4.53	7.63	6.08	*	6.93	*	6.47	*	5.67	*	3.93
P ₂	6.40	8.27	7.33	5.23	7.67	6.45	*	7.20	-	*	6.70	*	6.20	*	5.03	*	*
P ₃	7.13	8.63	7.88	5.97	8.23	7.10	4.93	7.93	6.43	*	7.80	*	6.87	*	5.87	*	4.53
P ₄	6.97	8.50	7.73	5.73	8.07	6.90	4.87	7.63	6.25	*	7.03	*	6.47	*	5.43	*	3.97
P ₅	6.93	8.50	7.72	5.57	8.17	6.87	4.83	7.80	6.32	*	7.27	*	6.63	*	5.67	*	4.13
P ₆	6.37	8.17	7.27	5.07	7.63	6.35	*	7.23	-	*	6.77	*	6.27	*	4.97	*	*
P ₇	6.30	7.70	7.00	4.93	7.27	6.10	*	6.93	-	*	6.43	*	5.93	*	4.50	*	*
P ₈	6.07	7.40	6.73	4.73	7.13	5.93	*	6.63	-	*	6.27	*	5.73	*	3.97	*	*

P ₉	5.40	7.23	6.32	*	6.93	-	*	6.30	-	*	5.83	*	4.93	*	*	*	*
Mean	6.49	8.11		5.35	7.69		4.79	7.26		-	6.78	-	6.17	-	5.14	-	4.14
	3 rd day			6 th day			9 th day			12 th day		15 th day		18 th day		21 st day	
	S.Em±	CD at 5%	S.Em±	CD at 5%	S.Em±	CD at 5%	S.Em±	CD at 5%	S.Em±	CD at 5%	S.Em±	CD at 5%	S.Em±	CD at 5%	S.Em±	CD at 5%	
P	0.06	0.16	0.05	0.15	0.04	0.12	0.03	NS	0.04	0.11	0.03	0.09	0.02	0.07			
S	0.03	0.08	0.03	0.07	0.02	0.06	0.01	NS	0.02	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.03			
P x S	0.08	0.23	0.08	0.22	0.06	0.17	0.04	NS	0.06	0.16	0.04	0.12	0.03	0.10			

*- end of shelf life

P₁ - LDPE with ethylene absorbant;

P₄ - HDPE without ethylene absorbant;

P₇ - Biodegradable bags with ethylene absorbant;

S₁ - Ambient temperature;

P₂ - LDPE without ethylene absorbant;

P₅ - PP with ethylene absorbant;

P₈ - Biodegradable bags without ethylene absorbant;

S₂ - Refrigerated temperature

P₃ - HDPE with ethylene absorbant;

P₆ - PP without ethylene absorbant;

P₉ - Control.

Table 4: Effect of different packaging materials with ethylene absorbant on Surface Colour Measurement (DA meter) of guava cv. Arka Kiran at different storage conditions

Surface Colour Measurement (DA meter)																	
	3 rd day			6 th day			9 th day			12 th day		15 th day		18 th day		21 st day	
	S ₁	S ₂	Mean	S ₁	S ₂	Mean	S ₁	S ₂	Mean	S ₁	S ₂	S ₁	S ₂	S ₁	S ₂	S ₁	S ₂
P ₁	1.97	2.01	1.99	1.87	1.96	1.92	1.74	1.94	1.84	*	1.87	*	1.83	*	1.74	*	1.70
P ₂	1.95	1.96	1.96	1.83	1.93	1.88	*	1.89	-	*	1.83	*	1.80	*	1.72	*	*
P ₃	1.97	2.04	2.01	1.88	2.01	1.94	1.78	1.97	1.87	*	1.92	*	1.87	*	1.80	*	1.75
P ₄	1.97	1.99	1.98	1.85	1.97	1.91	1.74	1.93	1.83	*	1.89	*	1.86	*	1.76	*	1.71
P ₅	1.96	2.03	1.99	1.87	1.99	1.93	1.75	1.96	1.86	*	1.90	*	1.86	*	1.79	*	1.73
P ₆	1.93	1.96	1.95	1.82	1.91	1.86	*	1.87	-	*	1.81	*	1.78	*	1.72	*	*
P ₇	1.92	1.96	1.94	1.79	1.92	1.85	*	1.87	-	*	1.80	*	1.74	*	1.71	*	*
P ₈	1.89	1.94	1.91	1.77	1.89	1.83	*	1.83	-	*	1.76	*	1.71	*	1.69	*	*
P ₉	1.81	1.93	1.87	*	1.89	-	*	1.80	-	*	1.73	*	1.69	*	*	*	*
Mean	1.93	1.98		1.83	1.94		1.75	1.89		-	1.83	-	1.79	-	1.74	-	1.72
	3 rd day		6 th day		9 th day		12 th day		15 th day		18 th day		21 st day				
	S.Em ±	CD at 5%	S.Em ±	CD at 5%	S.Em ±	CD at 5%	S.Em ±	CD at 5%	S.Em ±	CD at 5%	S.Em ±	CD at 5%	S.Em ±	CD at 5%			
P	0.005	NS	0.004	0.012	0.003	0.010	0.003	0.008	0.003	0.008	0.003	0.007	0.001	0.004			
S	0.002	NS	0.002	0.006	0.002	0.005	0.001	0.004	0.001	0.004	0.001	0.003	0.001	0.002			
P x S	0.007	NS	0.006	0.017	0.005	0.014	0.004	0.011	0.004	0.011	0.004	0.010	0.002	0.006			

*- end of shelf life

P₁ - LDPE with ethylene absorbant;

P₄ - HDPE without ethylene absorbant;

P₇ - Biodegradable bags with ethylene absorbant;

S₁ - Ambient temperature;

P₂ - LDPE without ethylene absorbant;

P₅ - PP with ethylene absorbant;

P₈ - Biodegradable bags without ethylene absorbant;

S₂ - Refrigerated temperature

P₃ - HDPE with ethylene absorbant;

P₆ - PP without ethylene absorbant;

P₉ - Control.

Conclusion

From this study it could be concluded that packaging materials with ethylene absorbant and different storage conditions effected the shelf life attributes of guava fruits. Among the packaging materials, HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) with ethylene absorbant is best followed by PP (Polypropylene) with ethylene absorbant. Among the storage conditions, guava fruits stored in S₂ - refrigerated temperature (8 ± 1 °C) showed better results with increase in shelf life than S₁ - ambient temperature. With respect to interactions P₃S₂ - HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) 50 microns with ethylene absorbant + refrigerated temperature was best of all the treatments with a shelf life of 21.01 days followed by P₅S₂ - PP (Polypropylene) 50 microns with ethylene absorbant + refrigerated temperature with shelf life of 20.88 days.

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