



South African Society
for Enology & Viticulture



SASEV/SATI 2020 Virtual Table & Dried Grapes Information Days

How can we avoid...reduce water loss and rachis browning?

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Despite the rachis is not the edible part of the cluster...it is actually the key **“freshness indicator”**





CHALLENGES WE ARE FACING FOR MAINTAINING RACHIS QUALITY

WISHING LIST FOR CONSUMER?

APPEARANCE

Color
w/o decay
Berry size
Rachis



TEXTURE

Firmness
Juiciness
Crunchiness

FLAVOR

Sweetness (Total soluble solids)
Acidity (Titratable acidity)
Aroma



SEEDLESSNESS

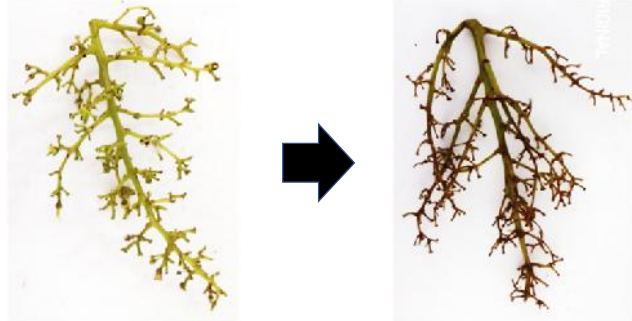
OVERALL QUALITY

CHALLENGE 1



...some of them changes during postharvest

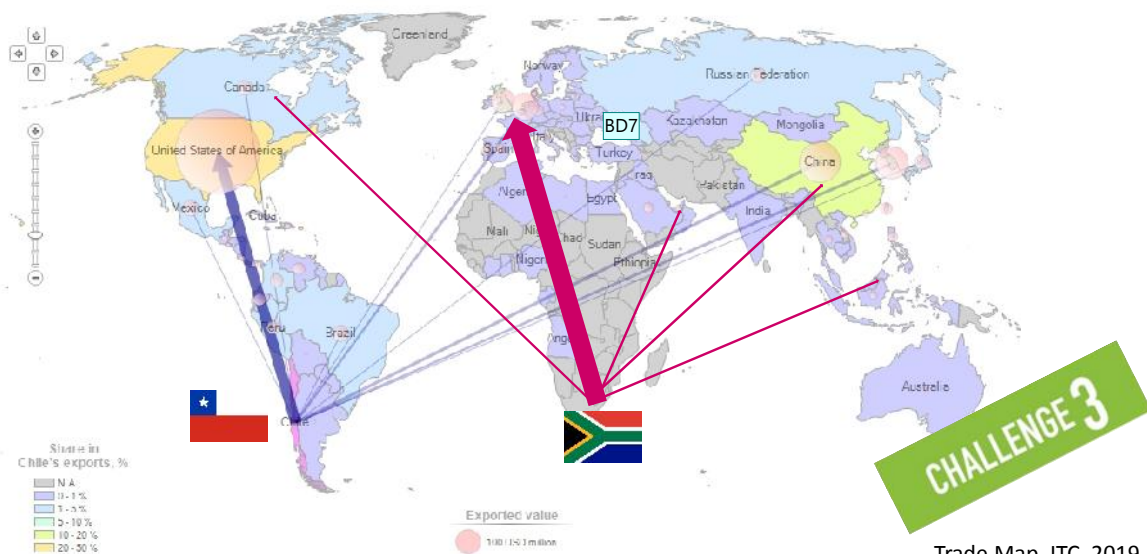
- ✓ TSS keeps steady.
- ✓ TA may decrease.
- ✓ **Berry texture** could change.
- ✓ **Berry damage** and **decay** usually increase.
- ✓ **Water loss** increases in berry and especially rachis.



CHALLENGE 2



The “table grape route” for export countries



CHALLENGE 3

Trade Map, ITC, 2019

Diapositiva 6

BD7 Bruno Defilippi; 05/08/2020



A massive availability of new genotypes...Chile as an example



2010/2011 (5,000 T)	2018/2019 (70,000 T)	2010/2011 (<5,000 T)	2018/2019 (23,000 T)	2010/2011 (2,000 T)	2018/2019 (15,000 T)
Ralli Others	Timpco Sweet Celebration Allison Ralli Krissy	Prime Others	Arra 15 Blanc Seedless Timpson Prime Others	Midnight Beauty	Sable Seedless Maylen Midnight Beauty Sweet Favors Others

CHALLENGE 4

Source: Adapted from IQconsulting



And many other challenges...

- ✓ Lack of **knowledge** about rachis physiology.
- ✓ Harvest time mainly based only on **sugar (TSS)** content.
- ✓ Inadequate **harvest & postharvest practices** (Temperature/RH).
- ✓ **Environmental** phenomena (heat stress and water deficit)
- ✓ Little availability of **technologies** for extending rachis quality.



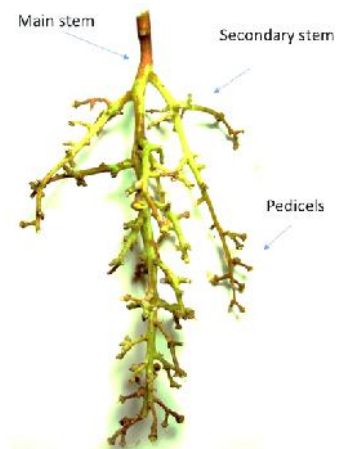
BASES OF RACHIS DETERIORATION



Rachis contributes a **3-8%** of cluster's total fresh weight



- ✓ Respiration rate is **10-50 time higher** than berry.
 - ✓ A very high area:volumen ratio.
- ✓ Important amount of stomata and lenticels.
- ✓ Small amount of wax in cuticule...almost absent.





I. Cluster water loss

✓ **What is it?.**

Cumulative process of water loss from the berry and rachis.

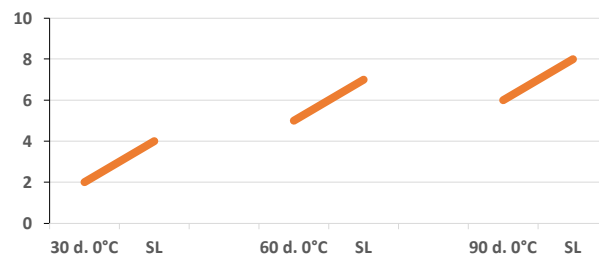
✓ **Visual symptoms?.**

- Dehydration
- w/ or w/o rachis browning

✓ **More susceptible structure?.** Vegetative tissues w/o waxy protection, i.e. the rachis.



Bunch water loss (%)



What are the thresholds of cluster water loss for getting damage?

>2% = a negative effect on rachis

2-4%= a negative effect in berry texture

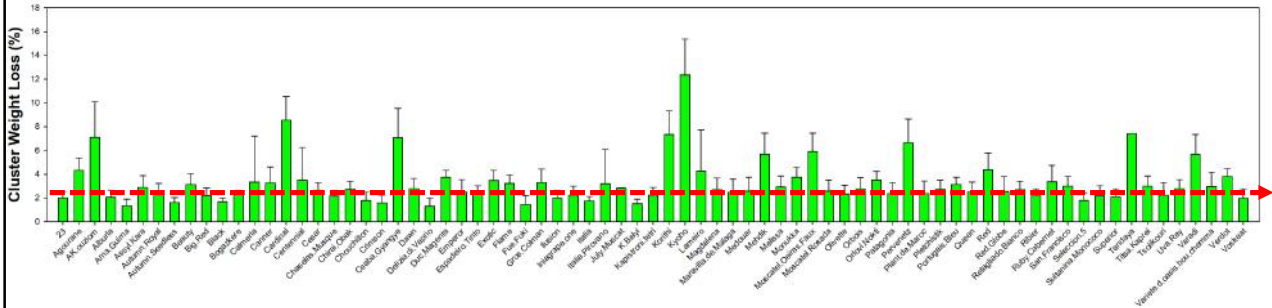
> 5% = probably berry with water loss symptoms

(Crisosto et al., 2001; Lichter et al., 2011)



Cluster water loss for 78 grape varieties

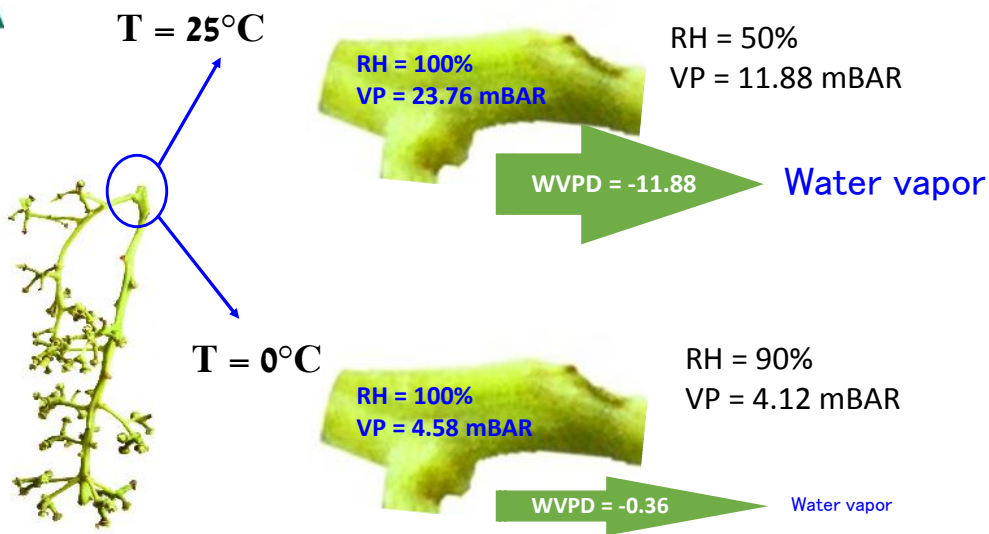
(After 30 d. at 0°C. Season 2018/19)



FONDECYT 11161044; CORFO 09PMG-7229



Effect of temperature on WVPD and rachis transpiration





II. Tissue browning

- ✓ A senescence regulated process.
- ✓ Tissue browning as the main symptom (PPO, PAL, others)
- ✓ Involves oxidative stress metabolism.

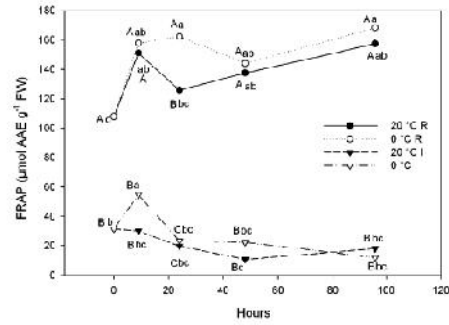
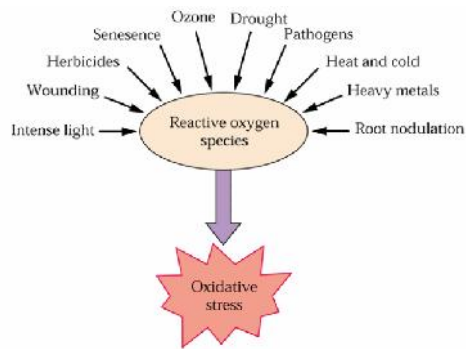
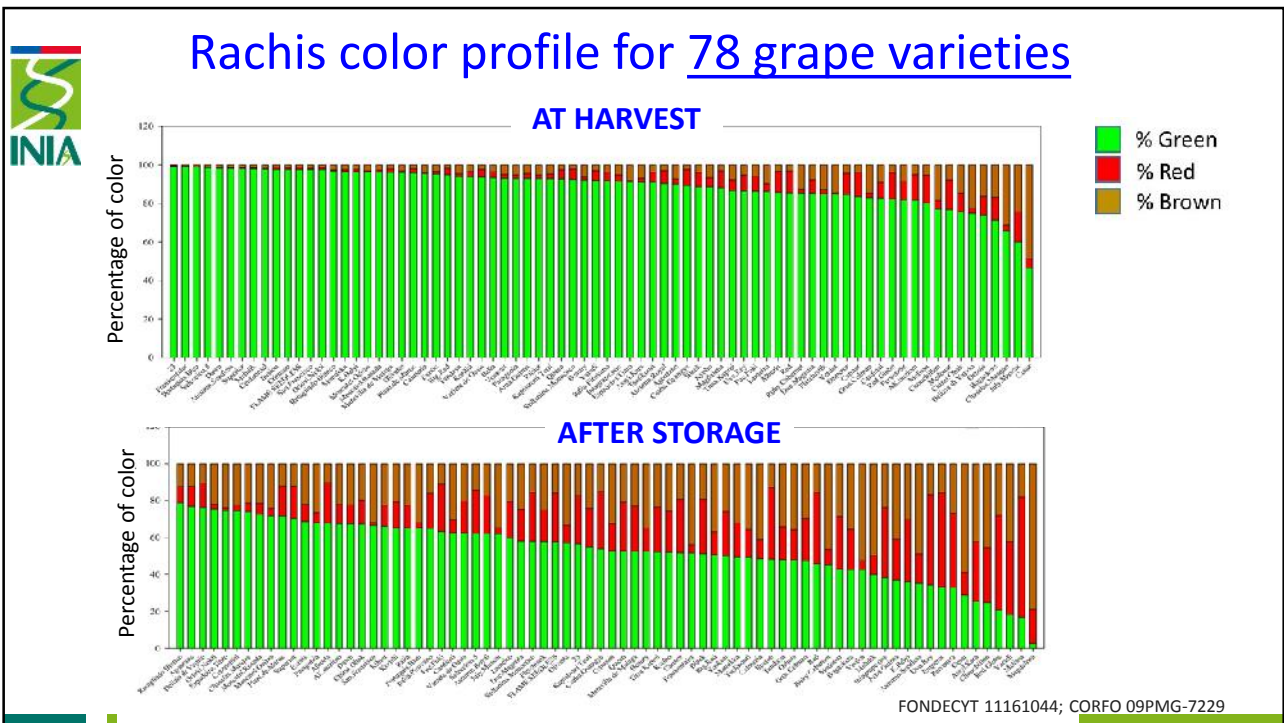
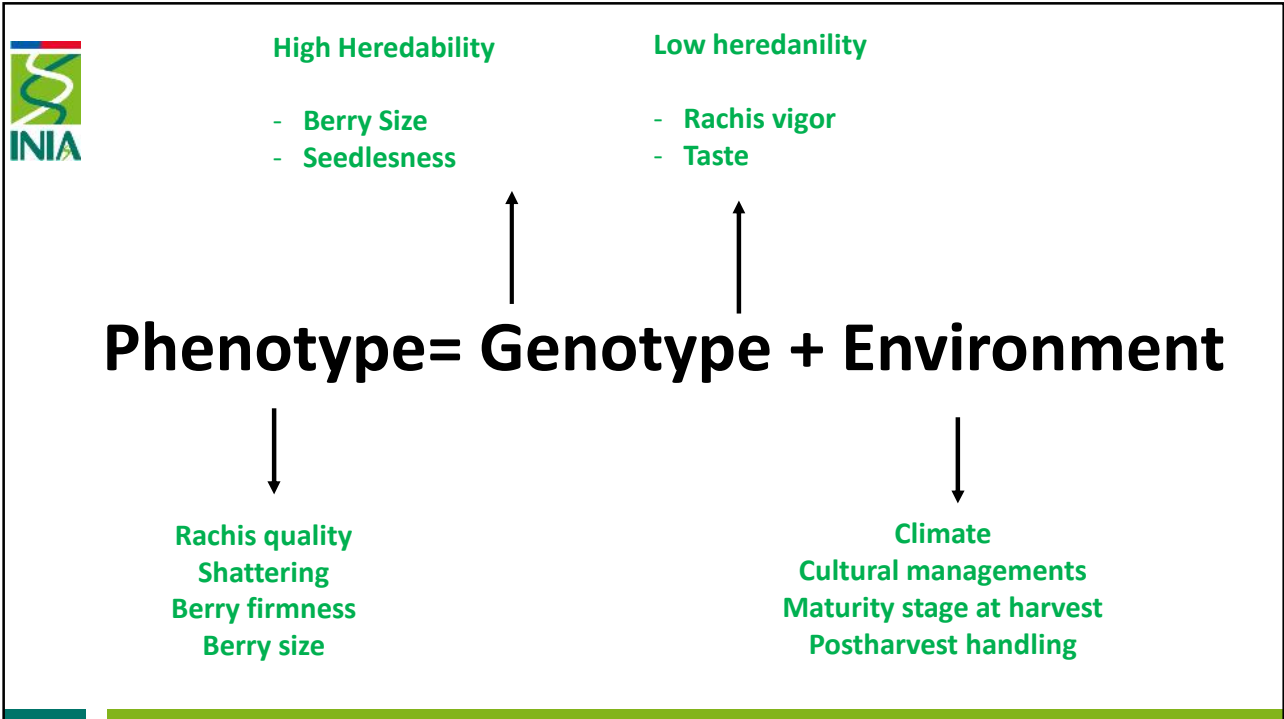


Figure 2. Determination of the total antioxidant capacity (FRAP) in micromoles of ascorbic acid equivalents (AAE) of mature clusters (R, circles) and fully elongated inflorescences (I, triangles) of Red Globe table grapes stored for 0, 24, 48 and 96 h at 0 and 20 °C. Different lower case and capital letters indicate significant differences ($P \leq 0.05$) based on Tukey's comparison test using samples of the same tissue type (R or I) or from the same sampling time point, respectively. FW, fresh weight; AAE, ascorbic acid equivalent.

(Campos-Vargas et al. 2012)



GENOTYPE





MATURITY AT HARVEST



Main questions:

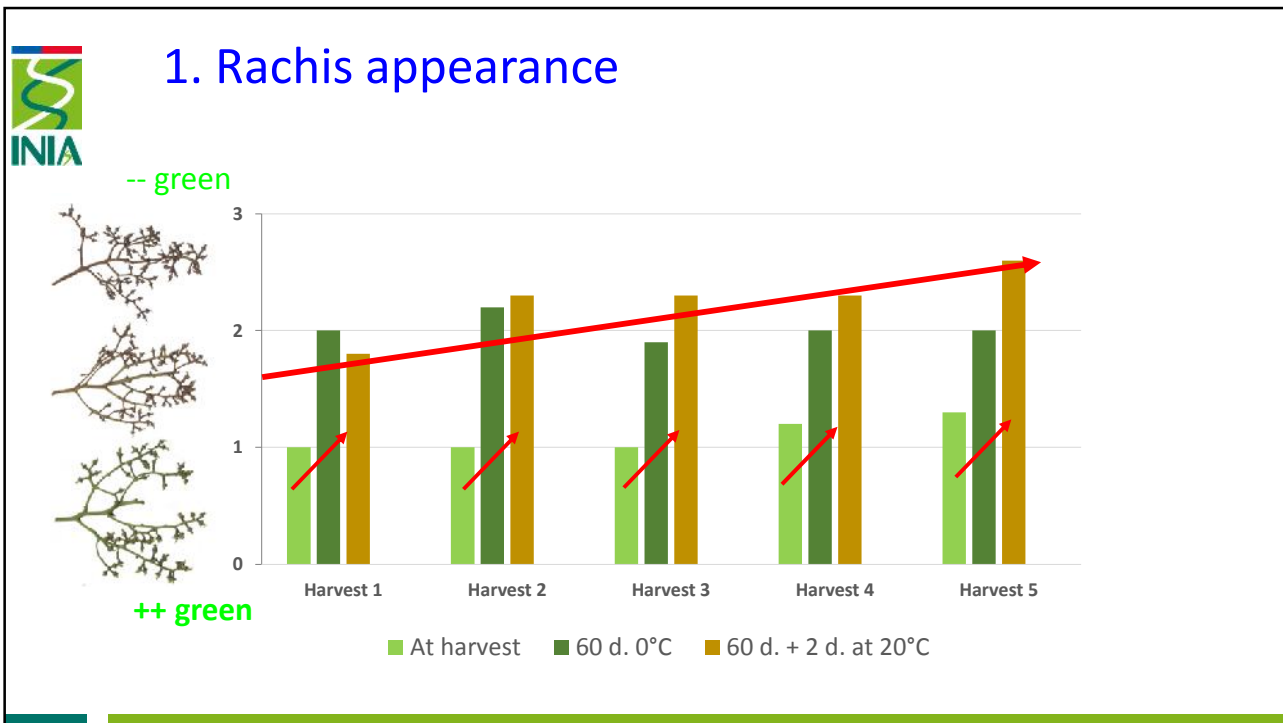
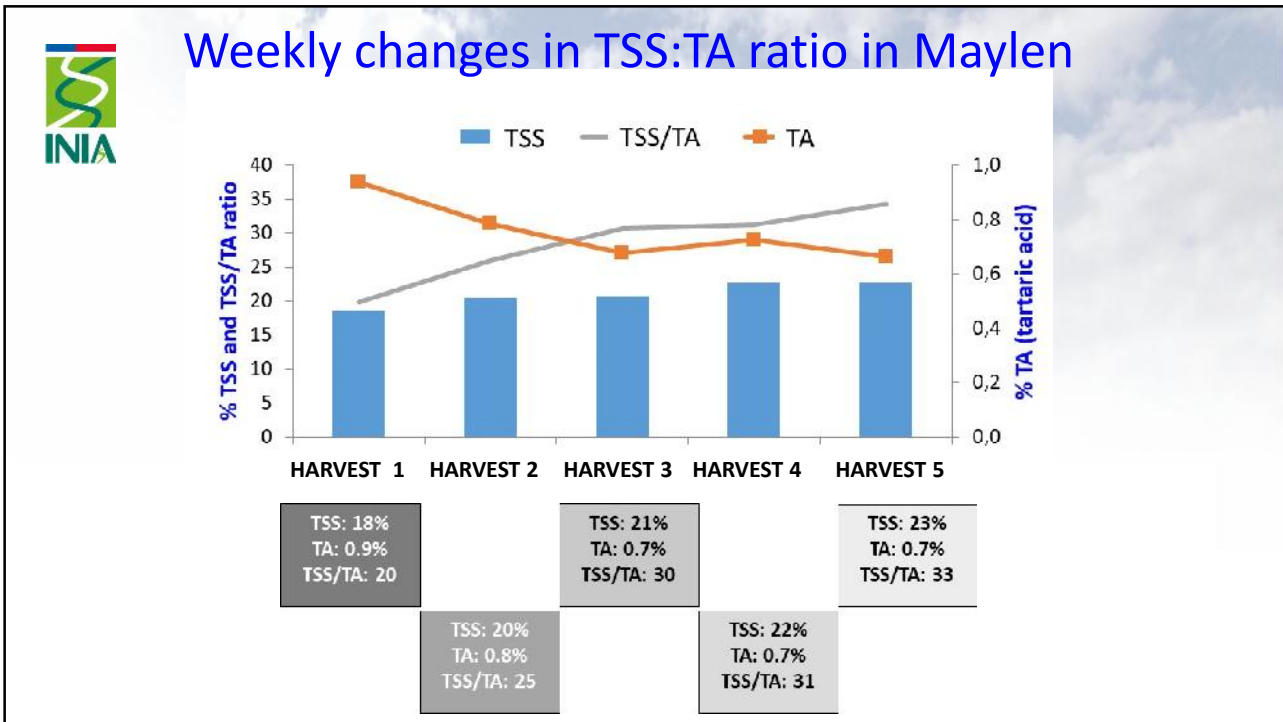
- ✓ Maturity stage at harvest?
- ✓ Harvest window?
- ✓ Harvest index?
- ✓ Storage potential?

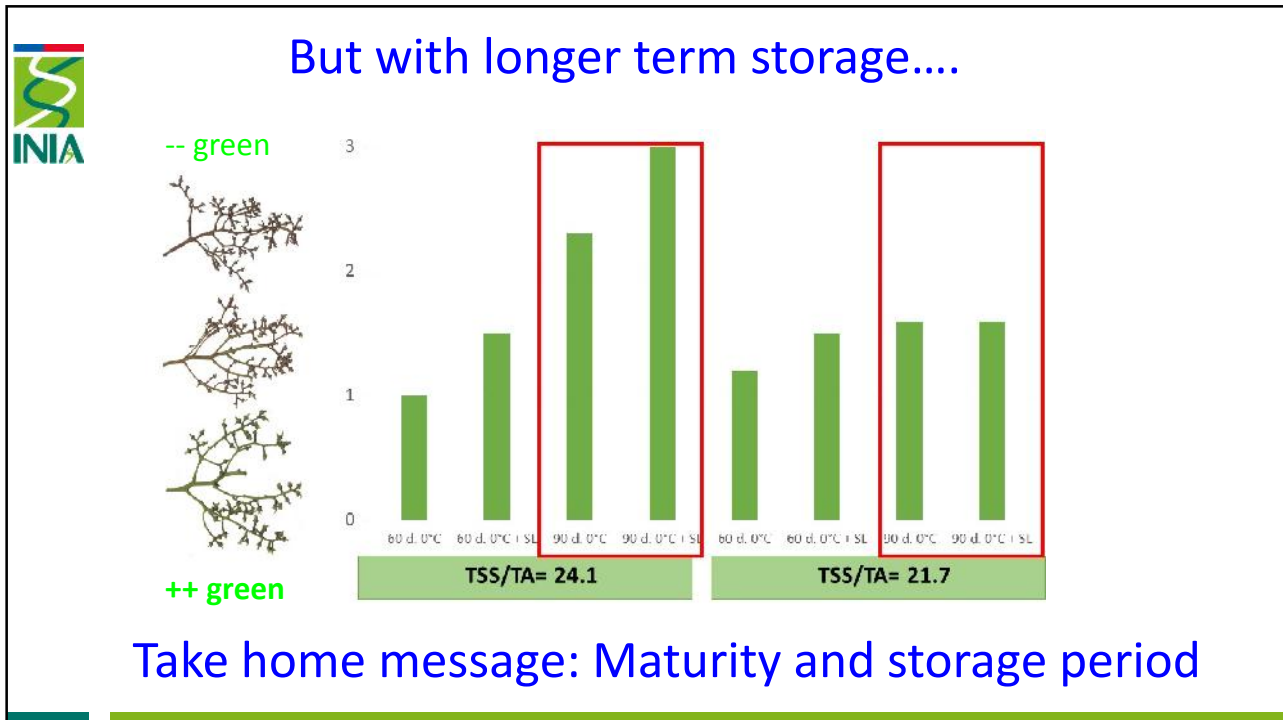
Example: **Selection 5.56 (known as Maylen)**

Berry color: Black

Characteristics: High titratable acidity

CORFO 09PMG-7229



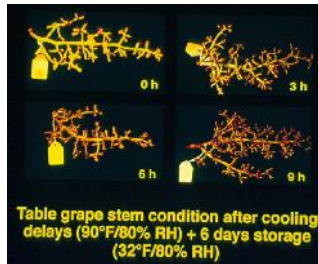


POSTHARVEST MANAGEMENT AND HANDLING



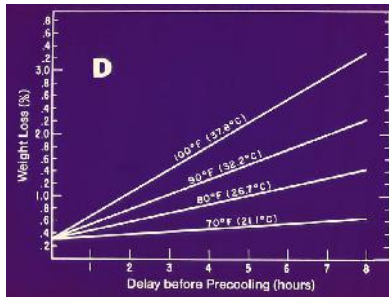
Knowledge is there for a while....

- Harvest time
- Temperature
- Cooling process
- Logistic (time between harvest and cooling)



LOCATION	GRAPE	
	HANDLING PROCEDURE	
	TYPICAL	EXPEDITED
	WT LOSS - %	
FIELD	3.00	0.50
COOLER	1.25	1.00
STORAGE	1.25	0.25
TRANSIT	1.50	0.60
TOTAL	7.00	2.35

Postharvest Technology Center, UC Davis...From the '60s



Do the right thing and at the right time...

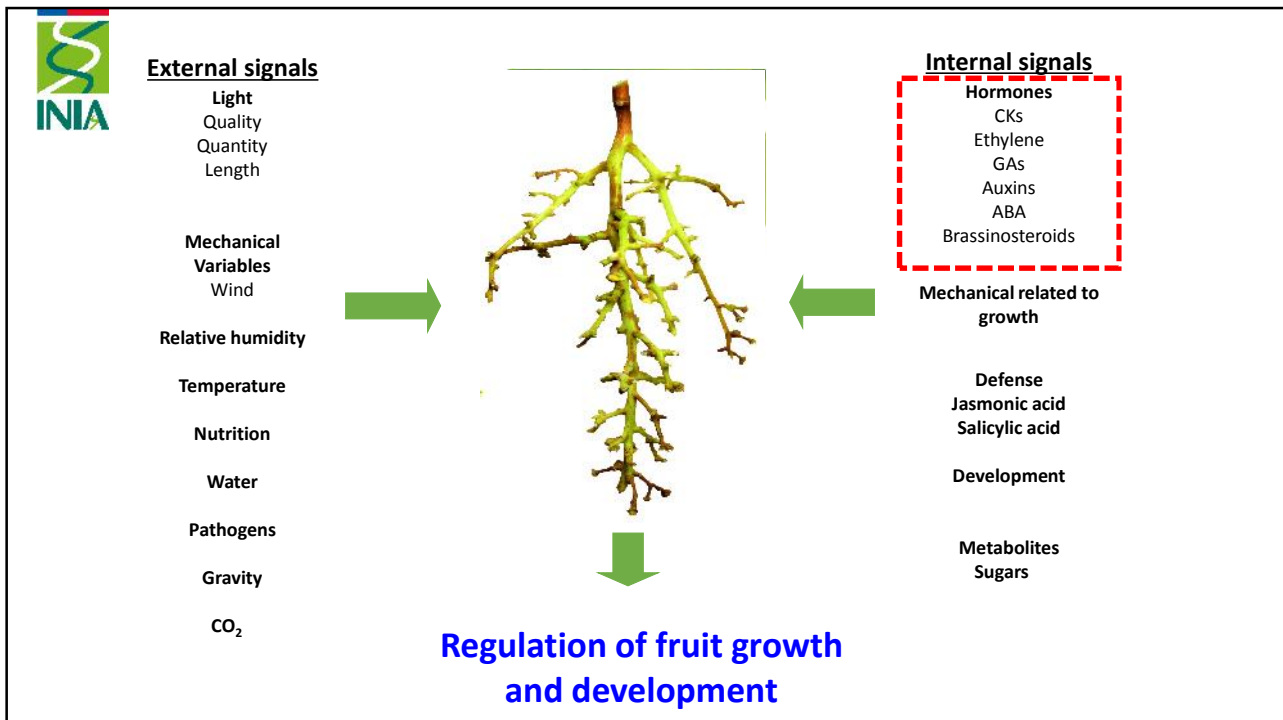
...and in the right way!!



Postharvest Technology Center, UC Davis...From the '60s



PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS

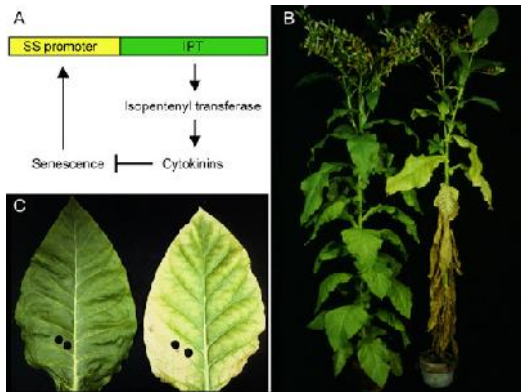


Cytokinins → Berry Size

Ethylene → Berry color

“Anti senescence”

“Senescence enhancer”



Source: S. Gan, Sci. Aging Knowl. Environ. 2003, re7 (2003)



Source: Professor Shang Fa Yang class

Transcrip expression of *ACO1* gene in the berry

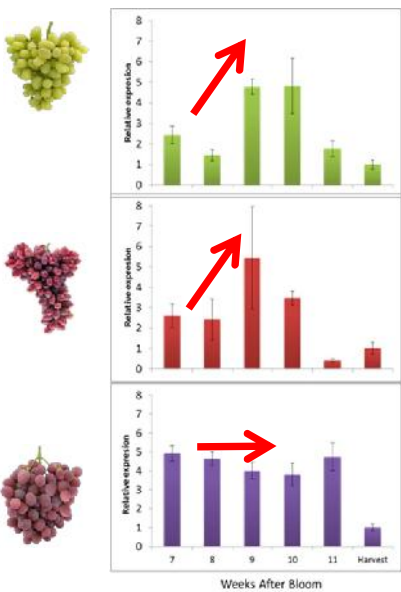
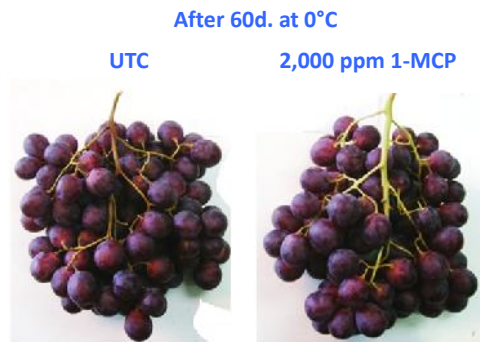
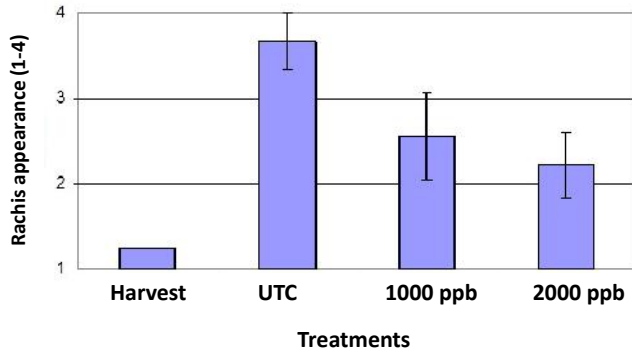


Table grape berries also showed an increase in ethylene metabolism during veraison, but with differences among varieties.

(Muñoz-Robredo, 2013)

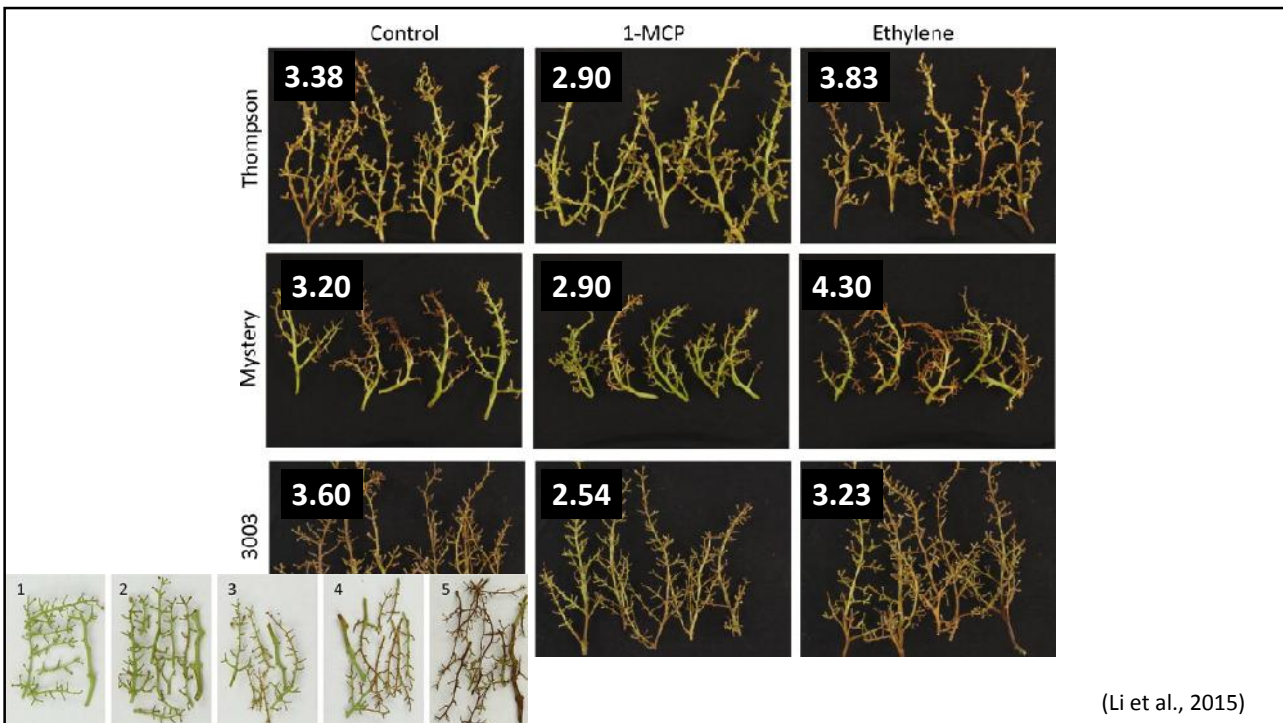


Effect of ethylene inhibition (1-MCP) at veraison on rachis appearance in Red Globe



* No consistent effects among seasons

Postharvest Unit, INIA, 2007 (unpublished)



(Li et al., 2015)

CKs

Treatments	GA ₃			
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
CKs	21.6	62.4	12.1 a	3.8 a
Thinning	0	20.5	49.3 b	30.3 b
UTC	10.4	31.5	58.1 b	0 a
Factorial: CPPU	s	s	ns	
Thinning	s	s	s	s
C x R	ns	ns	s	s



A >50% greener rachises with GA + CPPU application vs. GA alone.

(Navarro *et al.*, 2001)

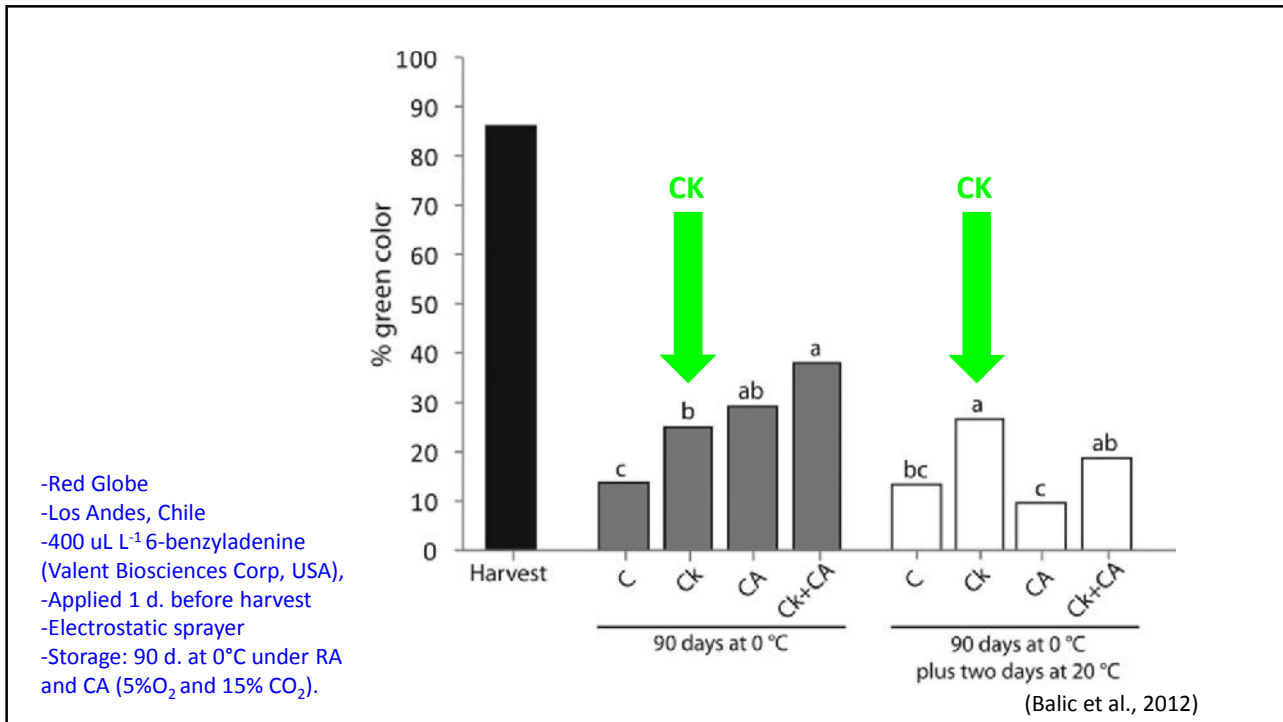


However, it is a must to get a suitable balance between CK's benefits and detrimental effects in rachis and berry:

- Rachis rigidity
- Stem thickening
- Berry drop



Source: Julio Retamales...in the '90

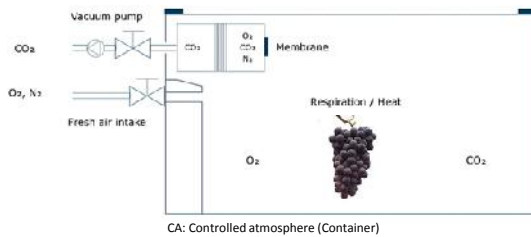
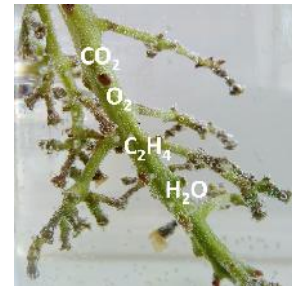


CONTROLLED AND MODIFIED ATMOSPHERE PACKAGING



Main effects in table grapes:

- ✓ Slow down fruit metabolism.
- ✓ Decay control ($CO_2 > 12\%$).
- ✓ Reduces WVPD...(Increase in RH 92-97% under MAP)



CA: Controlled atmosphere (Container)



MAP: Modified atmosphere packaging

Source: INIA-Subsole...late in the '90.



Use of controlled atmosphere.....late in the '90s

T. Seedless stored 50 d. at 0°C + 6 d. at 20°C



w/ SO₂ pad

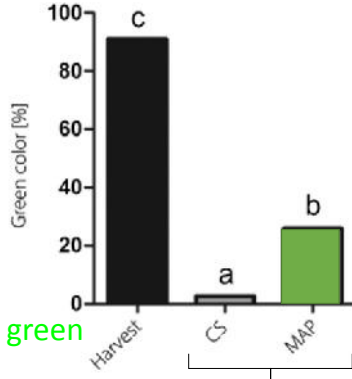
w/o SO₂ pad



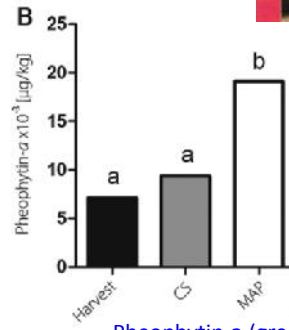
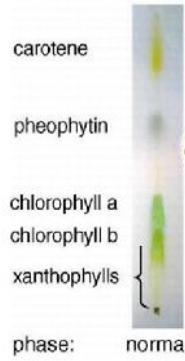
But the use of MAP is able of preserving freshness of the rachis

++ green

-- green



90 d. at 0°C



Pheophytin-a (green yellowish pigment)

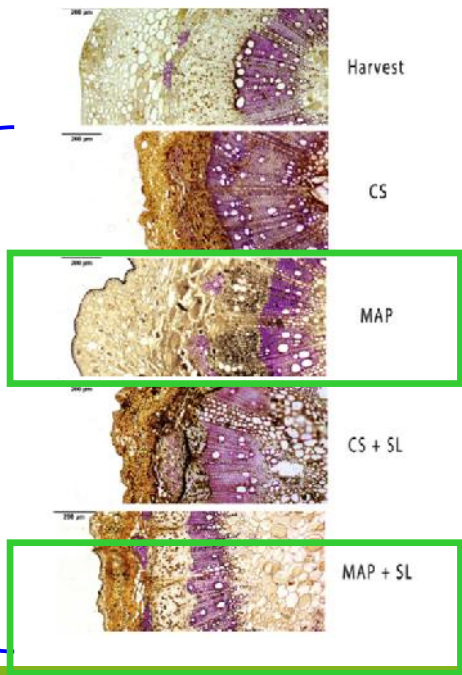


(Silva-Sanzana et al., 2016 . Fondecyt UNAB-INIA)



Tranversal slices from rachis stained with **phloroglucinol-HCl** to facilitate recognition of lignified vascular tissue.

After 90 d. at 0°C



(Silva-Sanzana et al., 2016)



Final remarks for rachis.....actually for everything related to grape quality

- WVPD control is a must....think in **the rachis** more than in the berry. **LOGISTIC!!**
- A lot of to learn about **new genotypes**:
 - ✓ Preharvest conditions (Climate and cultural management)
 - ✓ Maturity at harvest
 - ✓ Storage potential
 - ✓ PGRs response
- Alternatives to **SO₂** for decay control...what about the rachis?
- Rachis **science & technology**



Working team

POSTHARVEST UNIT:

Sebastián Rivera
Edgard Alvarez



Reinaldo Campos-Vargas

BREEDING PROGRAM

Paola Barba
Cecilia Peppi
Miguel García



Alonso Pérez

Funding



FONDECYT
Fondo Nacional de Desarrollo Científico y Tecnológico





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