

PLANT EXTRACTS IN POST HARVEST MANAGEMENT (DISEASE AND SPOILAGE) OF FRUITS - A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Purpose of Research: - This review focus of the utilization of plant extracts in the post harvest management of fruits and vegetables and this also emphasize the need for future research.

Findings: Plant products are an important source of agrochemicals used for the control various post harvest losses which include diseases as well as insect pests. The widely studied plants in this context are the neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*), chinaberry (*Melia azadrach*) and marigold (*Tagetes* spp.). They are being used to manufacture natural or bio insecticides, which are environmental friendly and do not have any toxic effects on plants and soil. Moreover, they possess fungicidal and insecticidal properties. It was found that application of 0.2 per cent neem azal formulations papaya fruits resulted in retention of fairly good amount of juice contents and completely eliminate storage rots of fruits. Extract of datura, *Azadirachta indica*, *ocimum gratissimum*, *Lantana camara* were found effective in reducing the mycelial growth and spore germination of *Alternaria alternate*, *Rhizopus* sp.

Directions for Future Research: Each of these categories requires further research. The industries would benefit from this article on the utilization of plant extract post harvest management of fruits and vegetables. There are several areas which require further exploration. One of these is the development of technologies for the extraction of plant extract and its awareness about the safety of its utilization without any effect on human health.

KEYWORDS: Neem, Chinaberry, Marigold, Post Harvest Management