# Winning the battle against under-skin browning

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## **USB on 'Honey Gold'**



#### **USB - under the microscope**



#### **USB on other cultivars**



KP





R2E2?



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## **Slower fruit cooling rates**



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#### Physical injury during harvest and transport



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## Packaging/transport damage





#### **Reducing transport damage - packaging**



# **USB** test

#### The breakthrough

- Lightly abrade fruit with sandpaper
- Hold at about 13°C for at least 6 days
- Ripen



# **Under skin browning**

#### Long term focus

- How to produce a more robust fruit
- Harvesting
- Nutrition
- Irrigation
- Rootstocks

#### **Under skin browning – diurnal effects**

Harvested every 4 hrs, cooled immediately or after 1 d USB associated with abraded sites



Similar diurnal effects on USB not associated with abrasion

### **Under skin browning – Ca/P**



Ca reduced USB around abrasion sites and at other positions on the fruit

## **Under skin browning – so far**

#### Recommendations

- Reduce physical damage
  - Harvest and pack carefully
  - Use soft liners
  - Reduce transport vibration/damage
- Delay cooling for at least one day
- Hold above 14-16°C

#### **Producing more robust fruit**

• Harvest fruit at night

#### "Watch this space"

- Nutrition calcium
- Irrigation

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